

MARVEL

1

EWING  
ANDRADE  
O'HALLORAN

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

THE IMMORTAL

WALKER



NUCLEAR PHYSICIST BRUCE BANNER, AFTER BEING EXPOSED TO A GAMMA BOMB EXPLOSION, BECAME THE INCREDIBLE, IMMORTAL HULK.

CLETUS KASADY, THE SERIAL KILLER BONDED TO THE CARNAGE SYMBIOTE, IS ON THE HUNT FOR SMALL PIECES OF GENETIC MATERIAL—CALLED “CODICES”—LEFT IN THE SPINE OF ANY BEING WHO HAS BONDED WITH A SYMBIOTE. CARNAGE DOES THIS IN AN ATTEMPT TO FREE HIS GOD, KNULL, AND BRING CHAOS TO EARTH.

BUT THE **HULK** HAS NEVER BEEN BONDED TO A SYMBIOTE...

# ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

## THE IMMORTAL HULK

**WARNING:** THE EVENTS OF THIS STORY TAKE PLACE AFTER **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #3**. IF YOU HAVEN'T READ IT YET, PROCEED AT YOUR OWN RISK!

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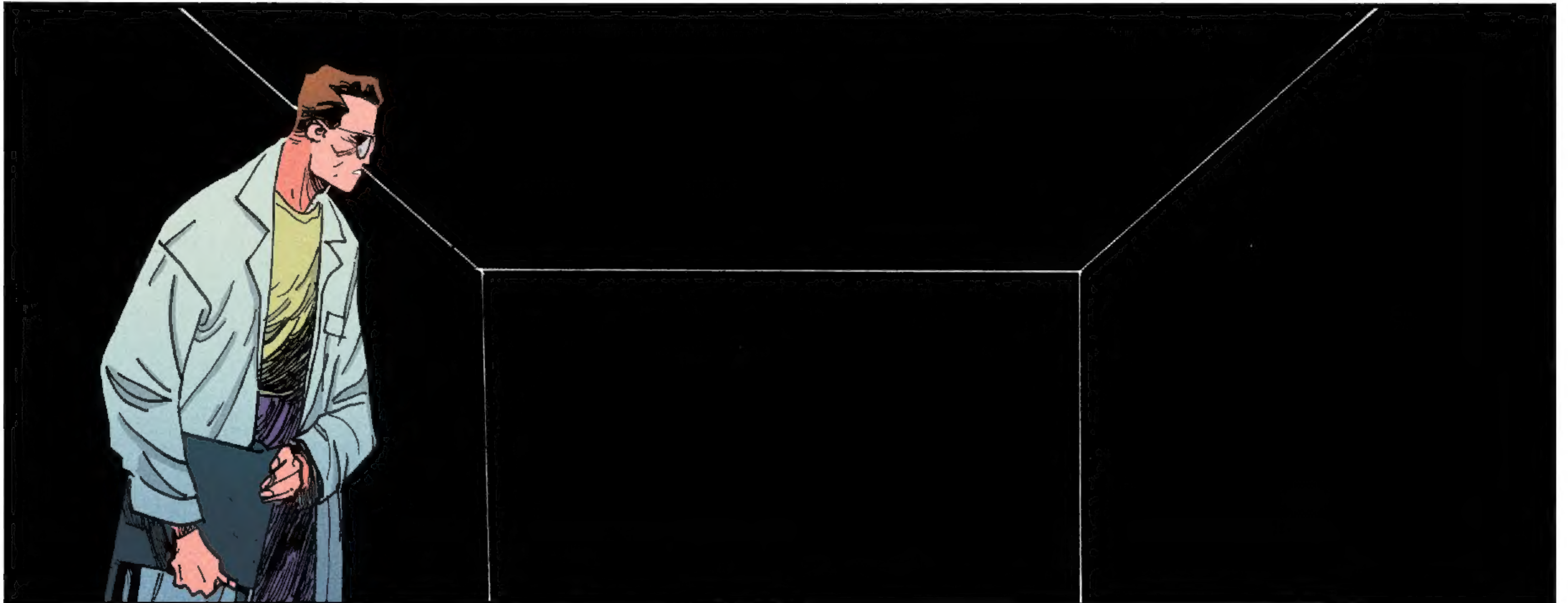
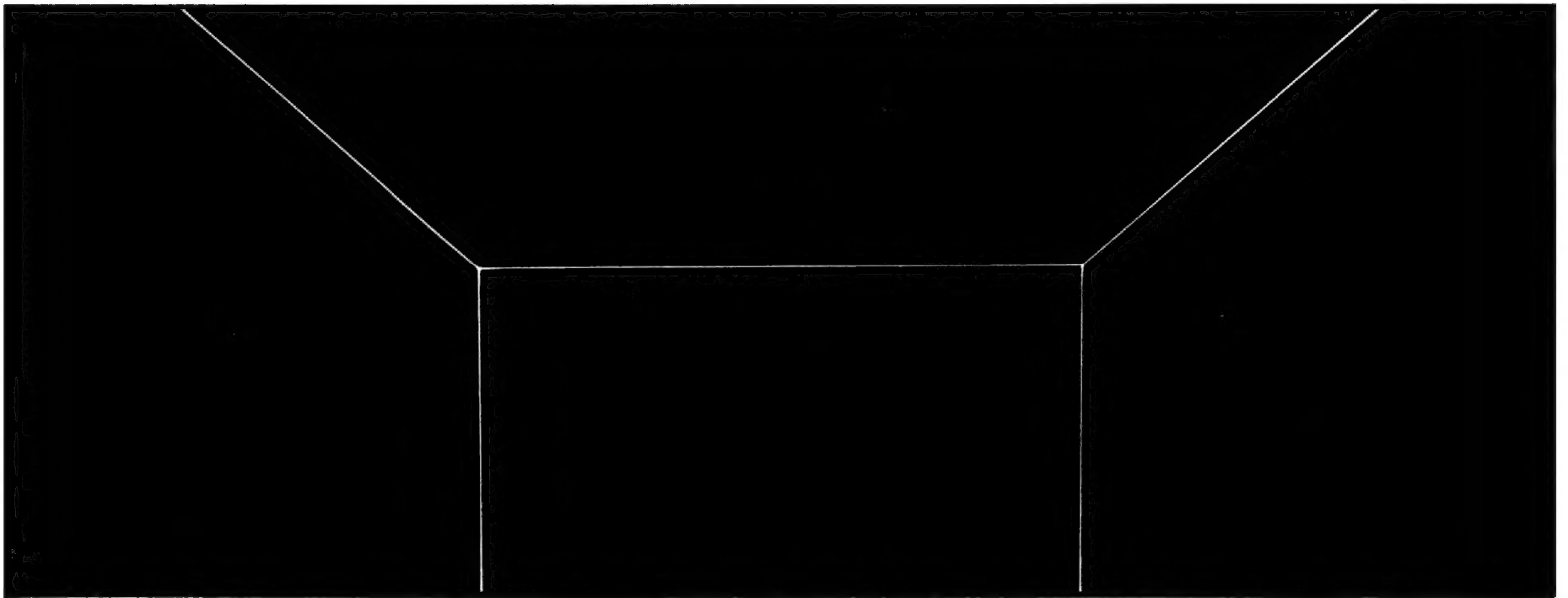
JOE QUESADA  
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

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PRESIDENT

ALAN FINE  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

HULK CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY









ANYWAY,  
YOU KNOW ME.  
**BRUCE BANNER.**  
REMEMBER?

WE'VE  
FOUGHT  
ON THE SAME  
SIDE IN THE PAST.  
I'M FAIRLY SURE  
I WAS THERE  
WHEN IT ALL  
STARTED.

AND  
AFTER TALKING  
TO YOUR, AH...  
YOUR **FRIEND**...

WELL, I  
THINK WE  
CAN HELP EACH  
OTHER. COMBINE OUR  
STRENGTHS, SO  
TO SPEAK.

ONCE  
THE OTHERS  
GET HERE,  
ANYWAY.

...

I KNOW  
TRUST IS AN  
ISSUE.

SITUATIONS...  
LIKE **OURS**...THEY  
CAN GET ROCKY. AND  
I REALIZE YOU'VE  
BEEN HURT IN  
THE PAST.

WE NEEDN'T  
RUSH ANYTHING.  
WE HAVE TIME.

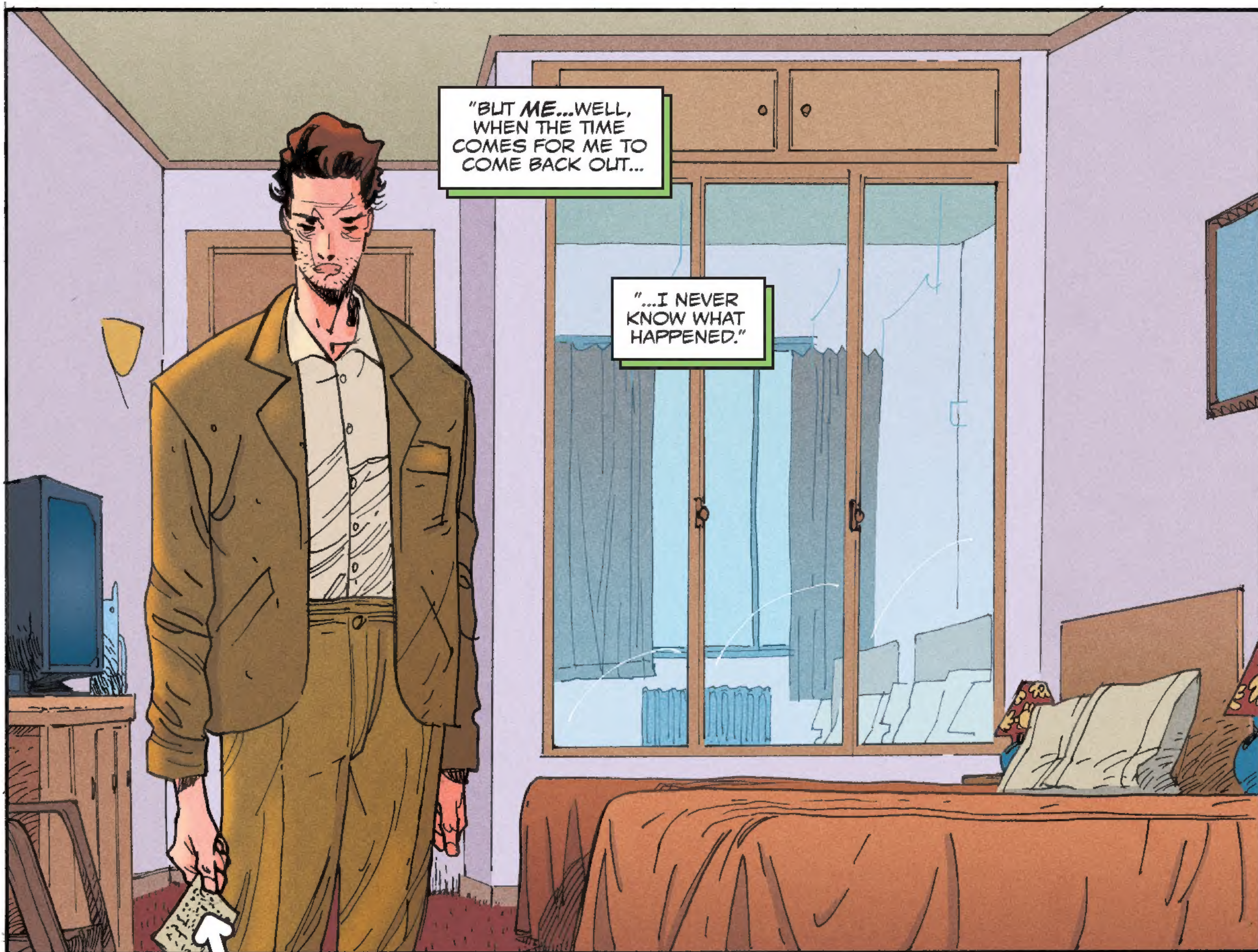
WHY DON'T  
I START BY  
TELLING YOU  
HOW I GOT  
HERE?





"THERE ARE THINGS  
I SOMETIMES ENVY  
ABOUT YOU. AND THINGS  
I DON'T. SOMETIMES...  
THEY'RE THE **SAME** THING.

"YOU'RE AWARE.  
WHETHER YOU'RE  
OUTSIDE OR INSIDE,  
YOU'RE THERE FOR  
ALL OF IT.



"BUT ME...WELL,  
WHEN THE TIME  
COMES FOR ME TO  
COME BACK OUT...

"...I NEVER  
KNOW WHAT  
HAPPENED."

BANNER - ROOM'S PAID FOR. MCGEE NEXT DOOR. DON'T BUG HER.  
BETTY + JONES IN BATHROOM. DON'T BUG THEM. YOU'RE TOO NEEDY.  
CLOTHES ARE YOUR SIZE, DON'T MESS 'EM UP. MORE IN WARDROBE,  
INCLUDING PRE-TORN. DEVIL SAYS LAY LOW FOR NOW. I'LL BE  
BACK IN 2 DAYS TO SWITCH MOTELS UNLESS JONES WAKES UP.  
JOE.

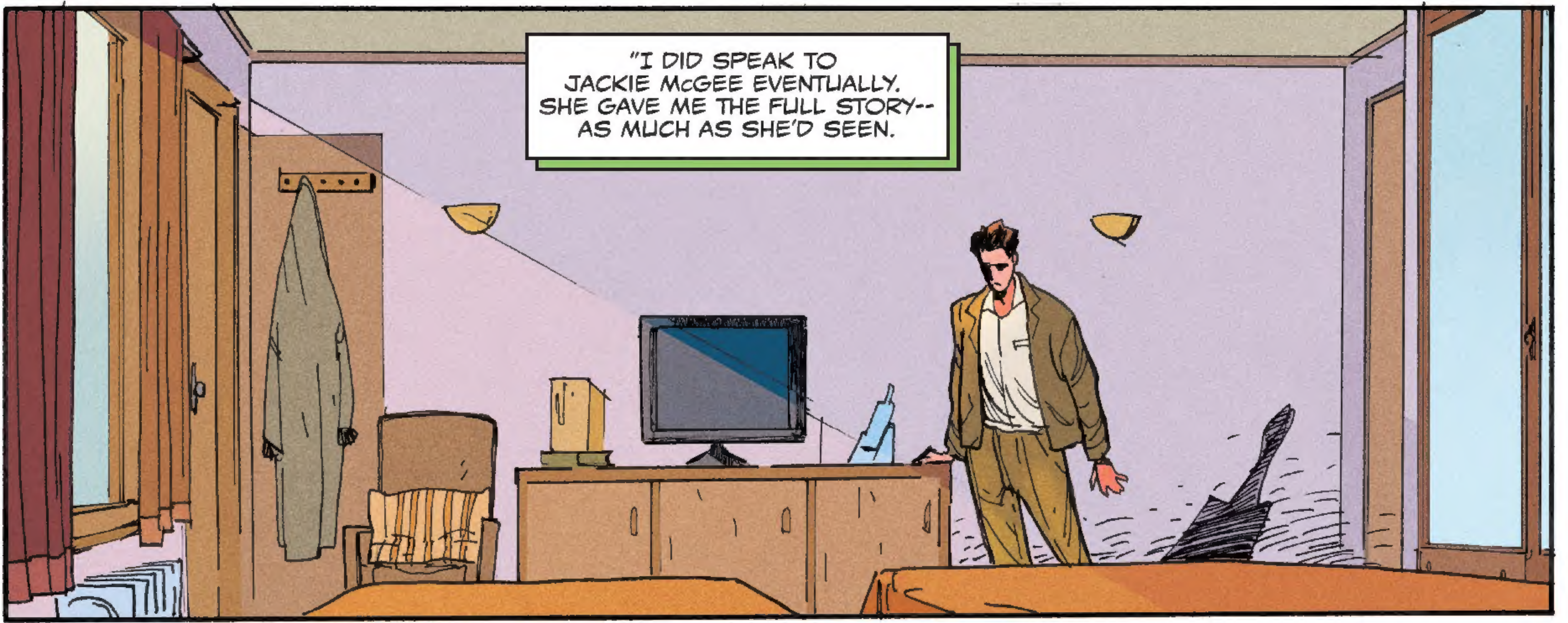


I'M "TOO  
NEEDY"?

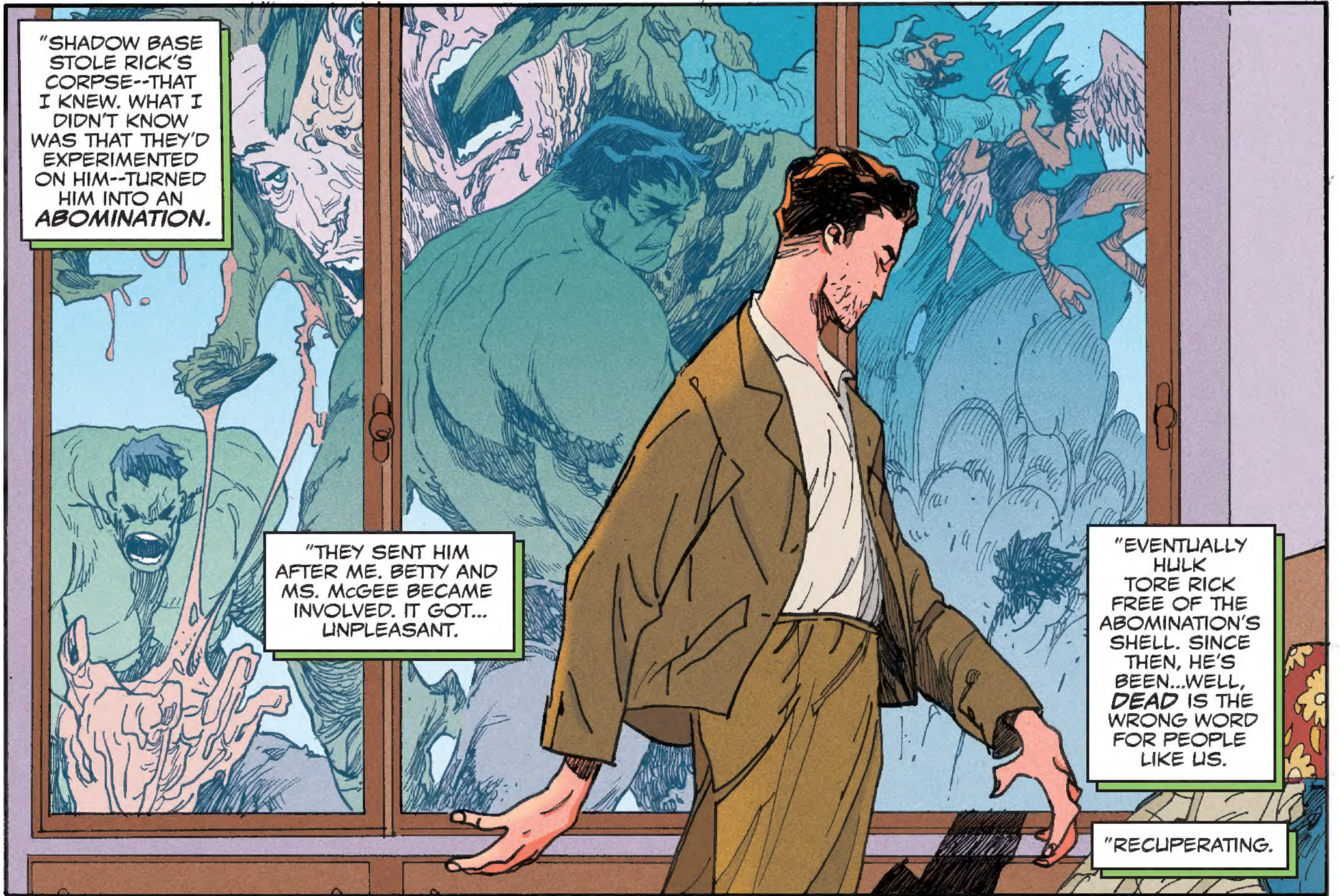








"I DID SPEAK TO JACKIE MCGEE EVENTUALLY. SHE GAVE ME THE FULL STORY-- AS MUCH AS SHE'D SEEN.



"SHADOW BASE STOLE RICK'S CORPSE--THAT I KNEW. WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW WAS THAT THEY'D EXPERIMENTED ON HIM--TURNED HIM INTO AN ABOMINATION.

"THEY SENT HIM AFTER ME. BETTY AND MS. MCGEE BECAME INVOLVED. IT GOT... UNPLEASANT.

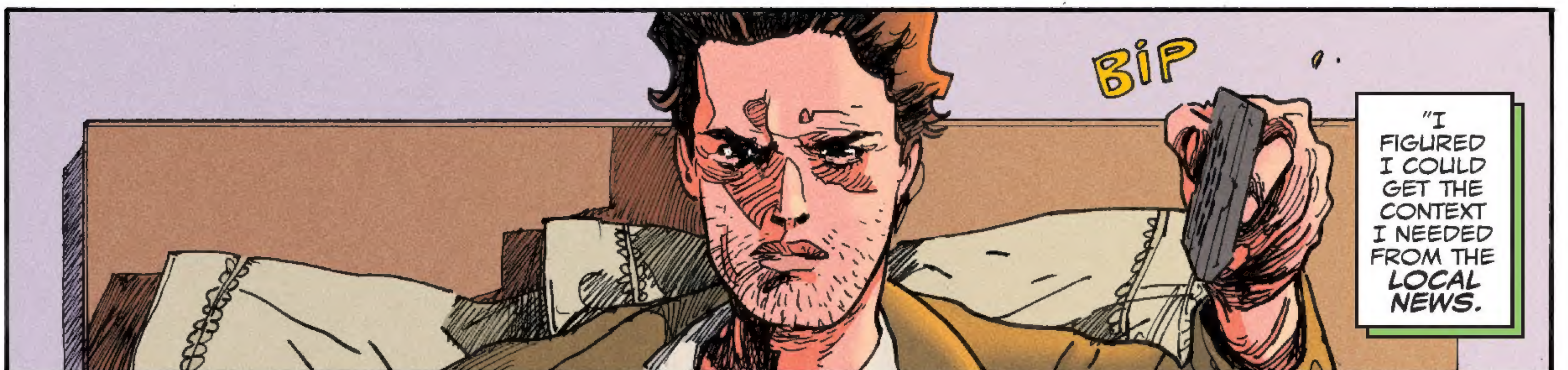
"EVENTUALLY HULK TORE RICK FREE OF THE ABOMINATION'S SHELL. SINCE THEN, HE'S BEEN...WELL, DEAD IS THE WRONG WORD FOR PEOPLE LIKE US.

"RECUPERATING.



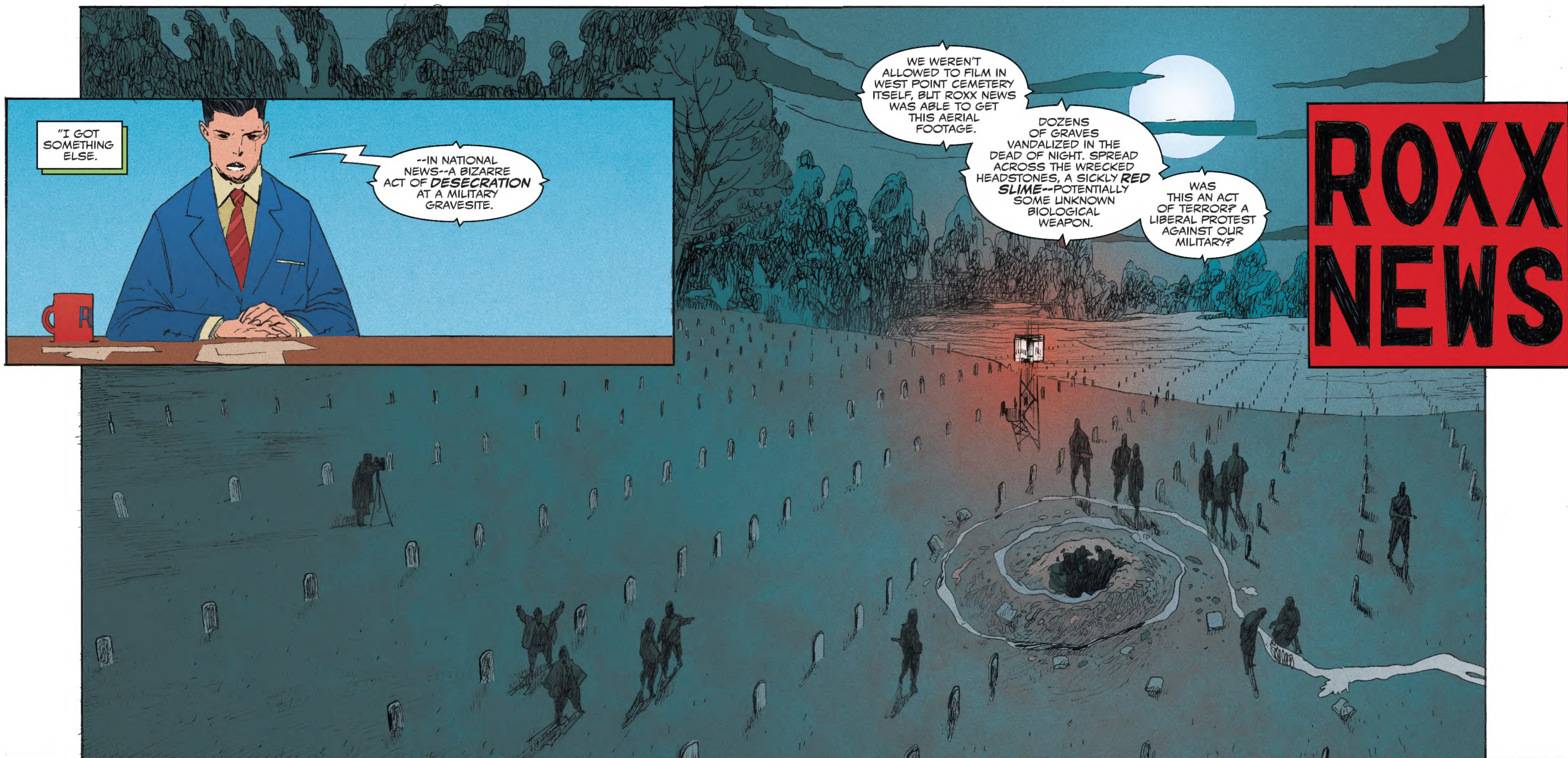
"ANYWAY. RIGHT THEN THOUGH, I WAS PUTTING OFF TALKING TO HER. SHE'S A **REPORTER**, AFTER ALL--SPEAKING RATIONALLY, IT'S HARD TO SEE WHY THE HULKS **TRUST** HER SO MUCH.

"ACCORDING TO THE MOTEL STATIONERY, WE WERE IN CALIFORNIA.



"I FIGURED I COULD GET THE CONTEXT I NEEDED FROM THE **LOCAL NEWS**.





"I GOT SOMETHING ELSE."

--IN NATIONAL NEWS--A BIZARRE ACT OF **DESECRATION** AT A MILITARY GRAVESITE.

WE WEREN'T ALLOWED TO FILM IN WEST POINT CEMETERY ITSELF, BUT ROXX NEWS WAS ABLE TO GET THIS AERIAL FOOTAGE.

DOZENS OF GRAVES VANDALIZED IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT. SPREAD ACROSS THE WRECKED HEADSTONES, A SICKLY **RED SLIME**--POTENTIALLY SOME UNKNOWN BIOLOGICAL WEAPON.

WAS THIS AN ACT OF TERROR? A LIBERAL PROTEST AGAINST OUR MILITARY?

**ROXX NEWS**



OR SOMETHING EVEN WORSE?

ONE BODY HAS BEEN CONFIRMED AS MISSING FROM THE SCENE-- A HERO OF OUR COUNTRY, A PROUD SERVANT OF OUR GOVERNMENT. AN **AVENGER**.



THE BODY OF GENERAL THADDEUS "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS HAS BEEN--



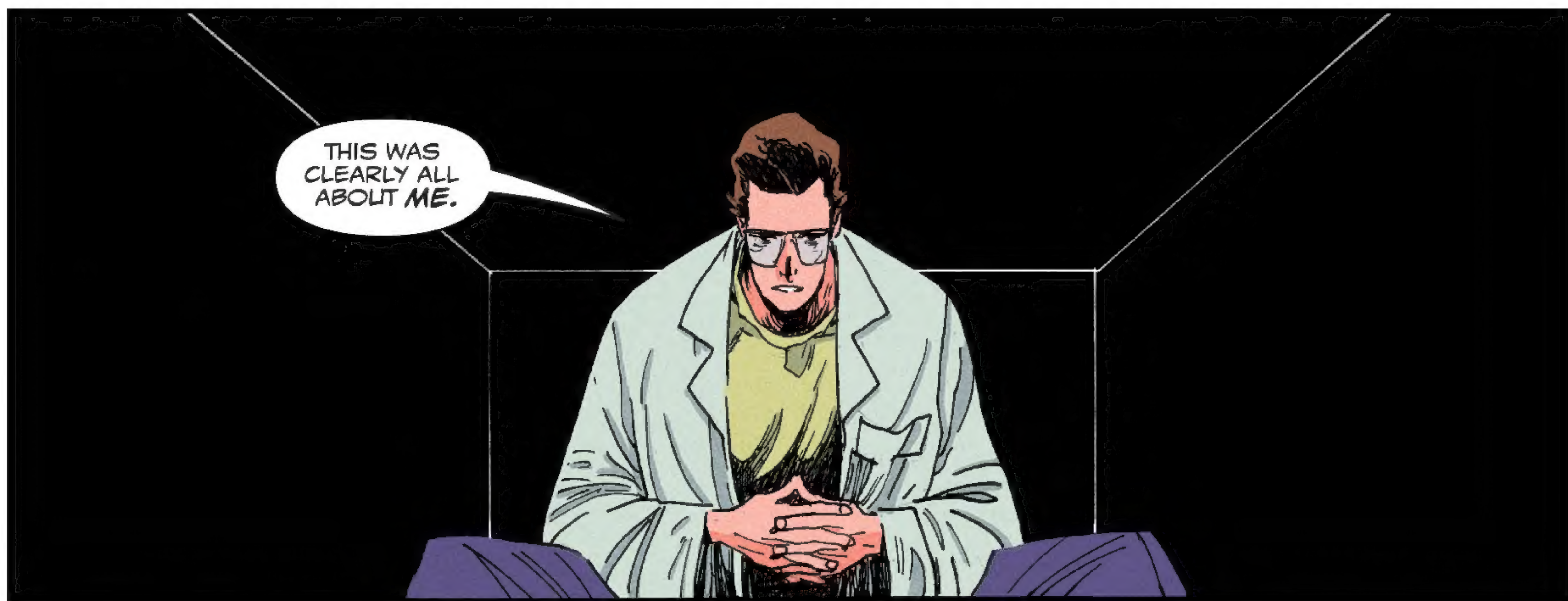
"THE STOLEN CORPSE OF A KNOWN GAMMA MUTATE. JUST AS RICK'S HAD BEEN STOLEN."

"THERE WAS EVEN RED BIO-MATTER AT THE SCENE-- RED FOR THE RED HULK. ROSS' MUTATION."

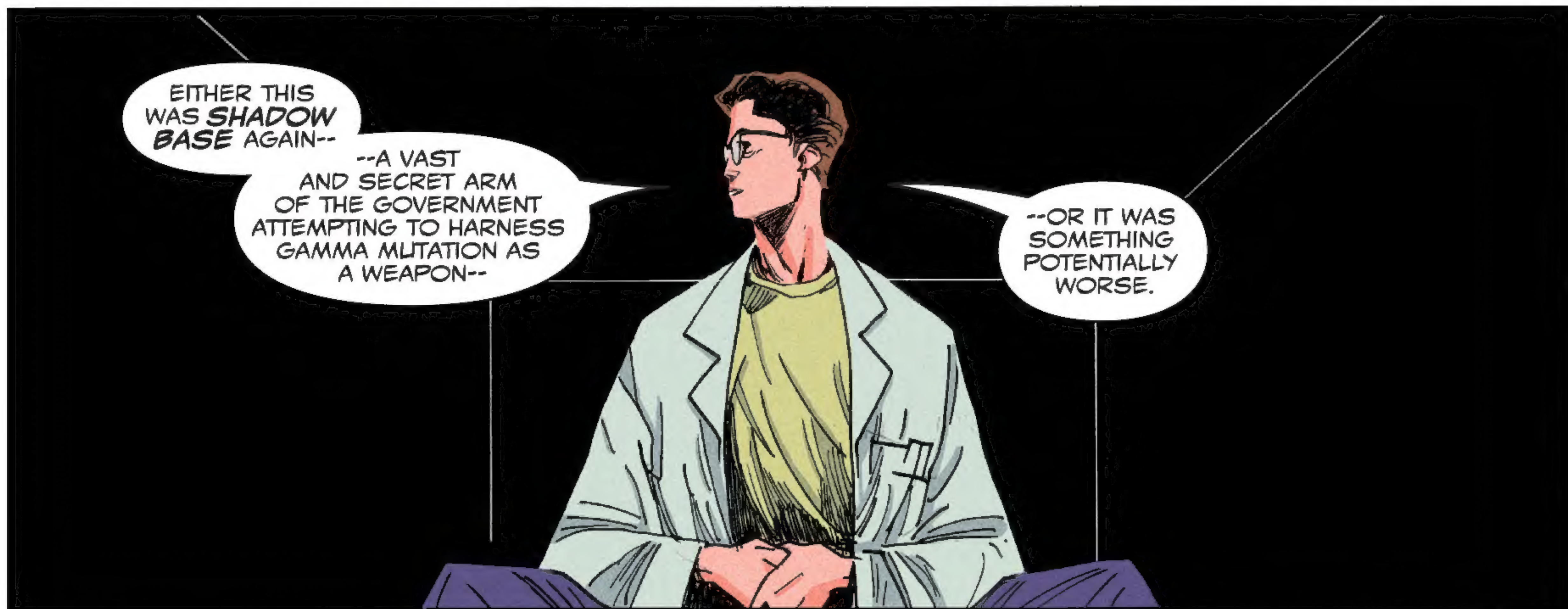


"THERE WAS ONLY ONE CONCLUSION I COULD POSSIBLY COME TO."





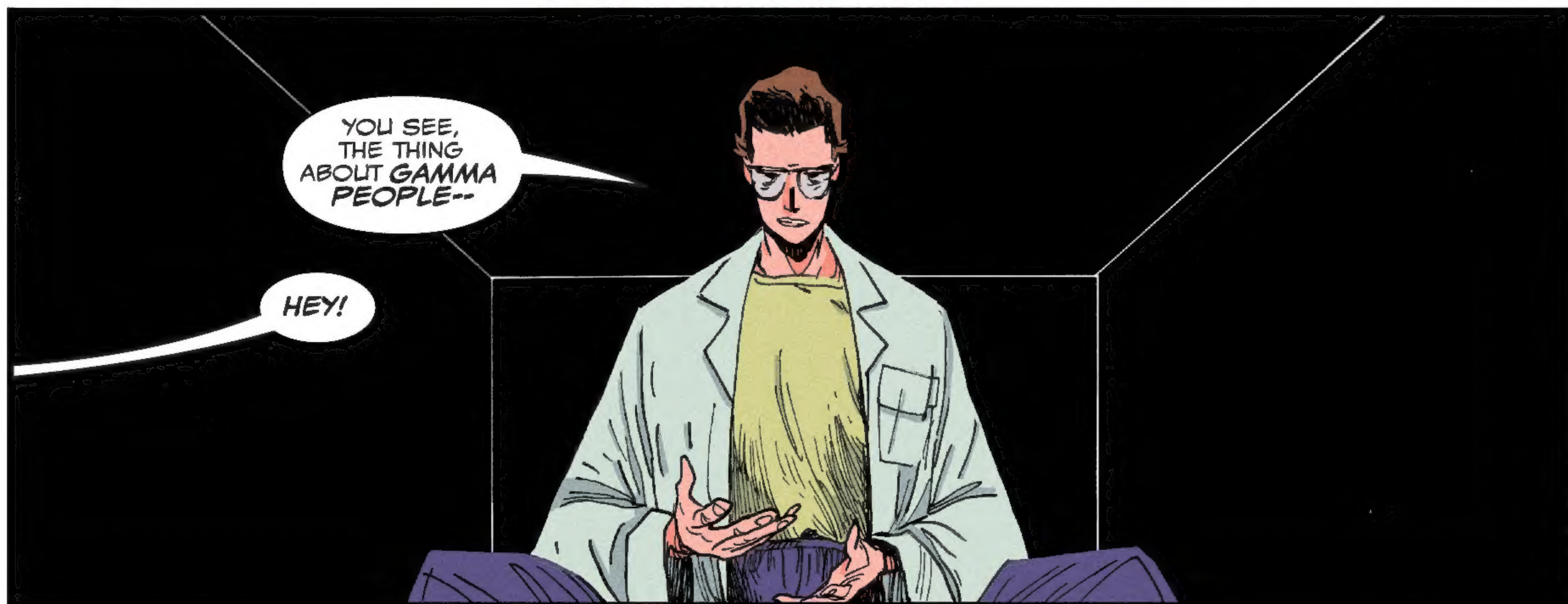
THIS WAS  
CLEARLY ALL  
ABOUT ME.



EITHER THIS  
WAS **SHADOW  
BASE** AGAIN--

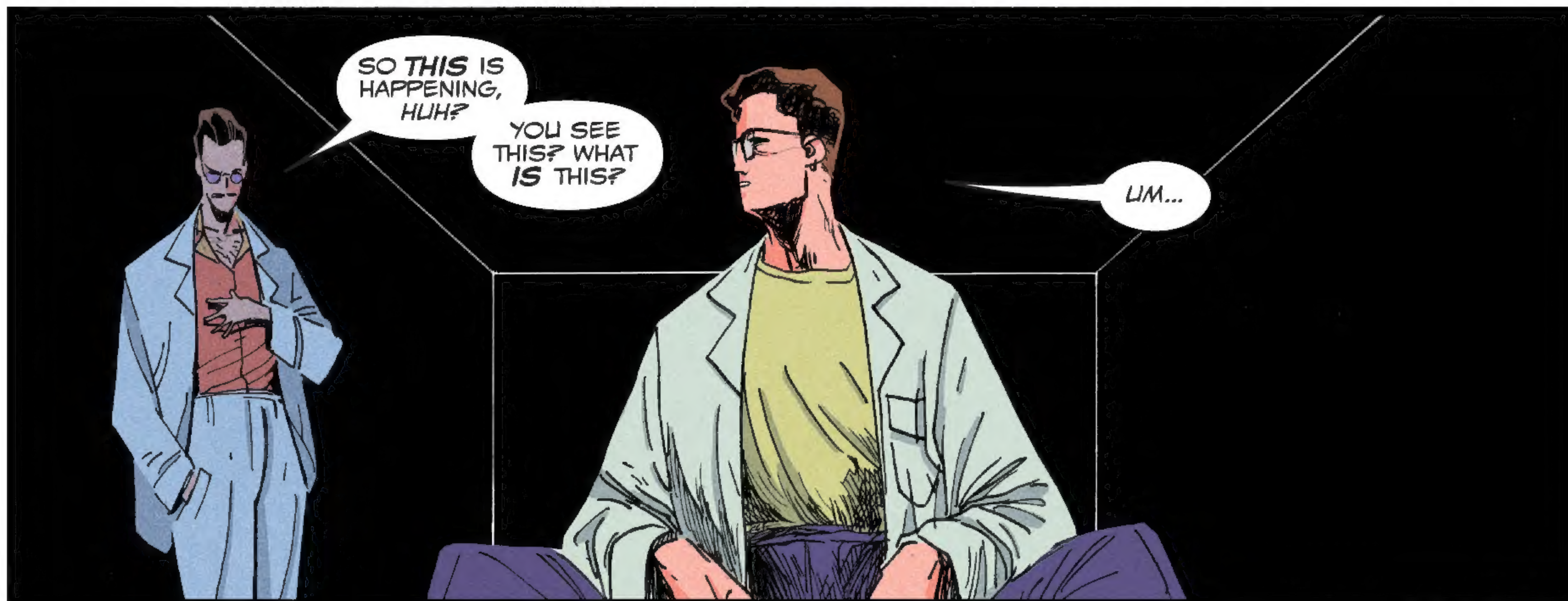
--A VAST  
AND SECRET ARM  
OF THE GOVERNMENT  
ATTEMPTING TO HARNESS  
GAMMA MUTATION AS  
A WEAPON--

--OR IT WAS  
SOMETHING  
POTENTIALLY  
WORSE.



YOU SEE,  
THE THING  
ABOUT **GAMMA  
PEOPLE**--

HEY!

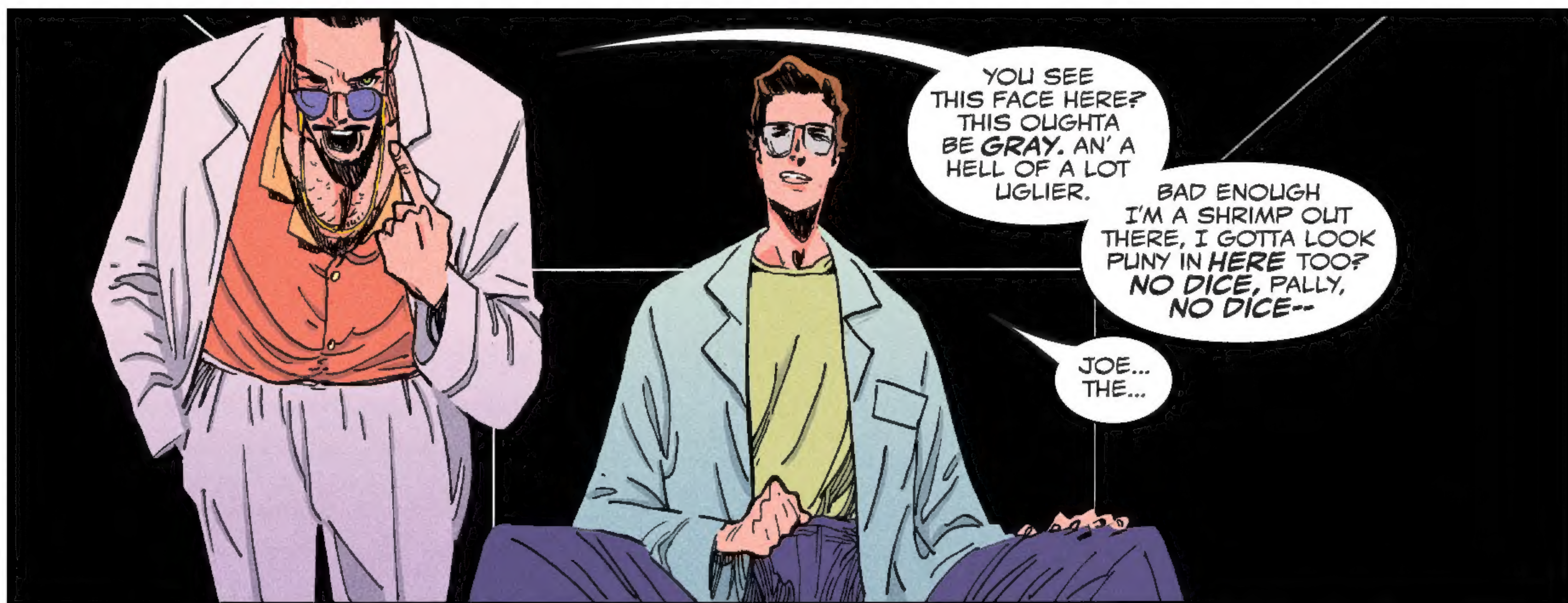


SO **THIS** IS  
HAPPENING,  
HUH?

YOU SEE  
THIS? WHAT  
**IS** THIS?

LIM...





YOU SEE  
THIS FACE HERE?  
THIS OUGHTA  
BE **GRAY**. AN' A  
HELL OF A LOT  
UGLIER.

BAD ENOUGH  
I'M A SHRIMP OUT  
THERE, I GOTTA LOOK  
PUNY IN **HERE** TOO?  
**NO DICE**, PALLY,  
**NO DICE--**

JOE...  
THE...



...THE  
SHIRT...AND...  
EVERYTHING...

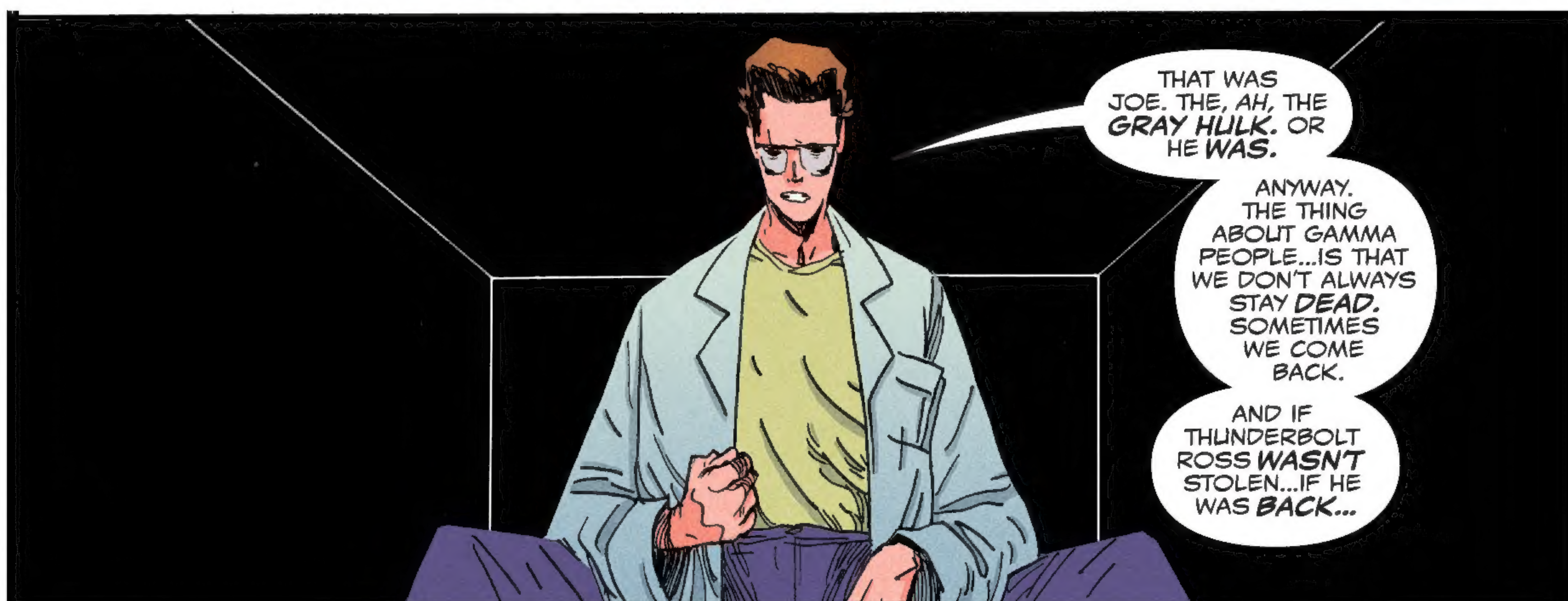
WHAT?  
I CATCH A  
LOTTA SUN THESE  
DAYS. KINDA  
GETTIN' TO  
**LIKE** IT.

MAN'S GOTTA  
DRESS FOR THE  
WEATHER.



ALL RIGHT,  
ALL RIGHT. PUT YER  
EYES BACK IN,  
BANNER.

I'LL GO  
DIG UP THE  
OTHERS.

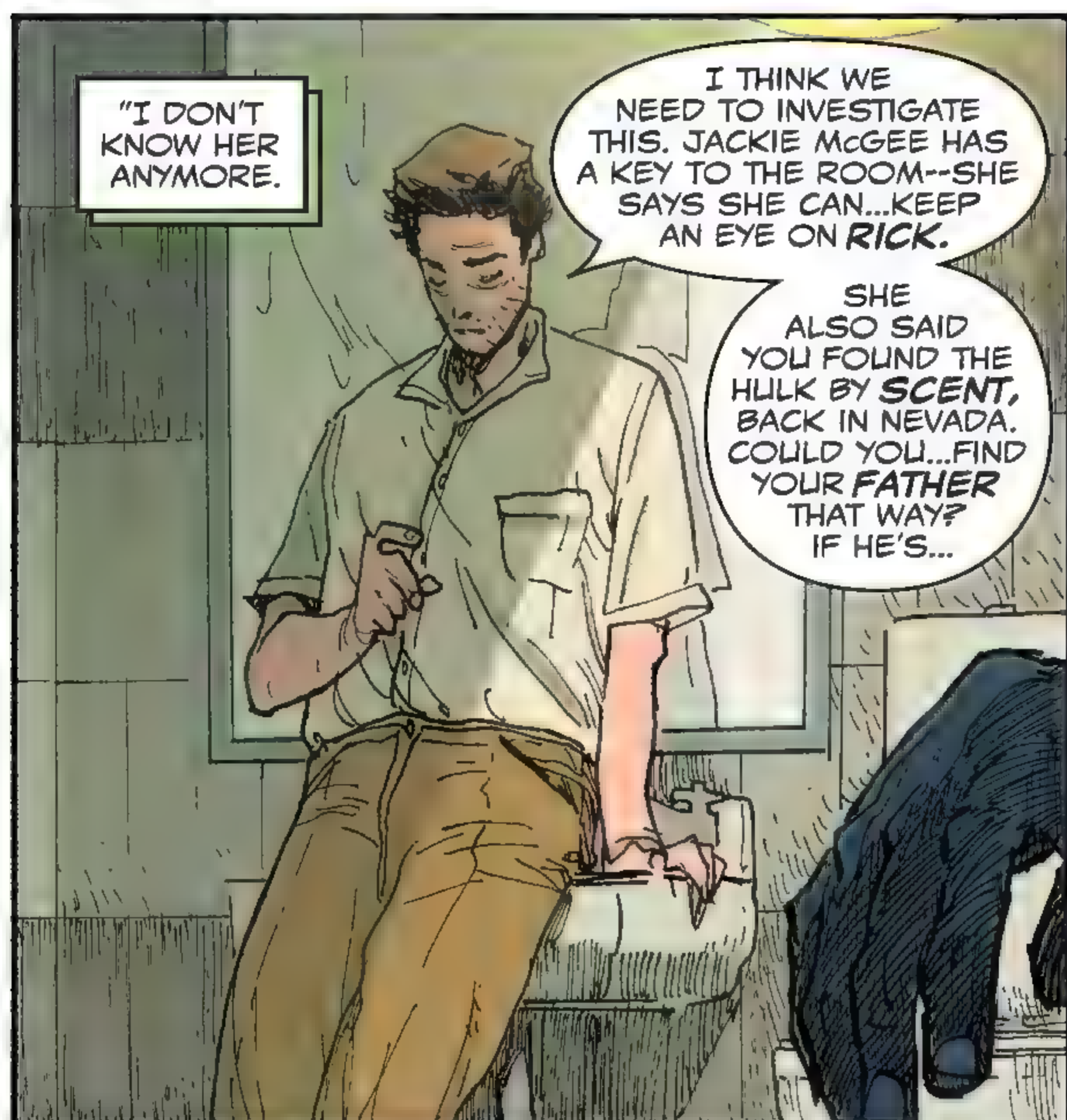


THAT WAS  
JOE. THE, AH, THE  
**GRAY HULK**. OR  
HE WAS.

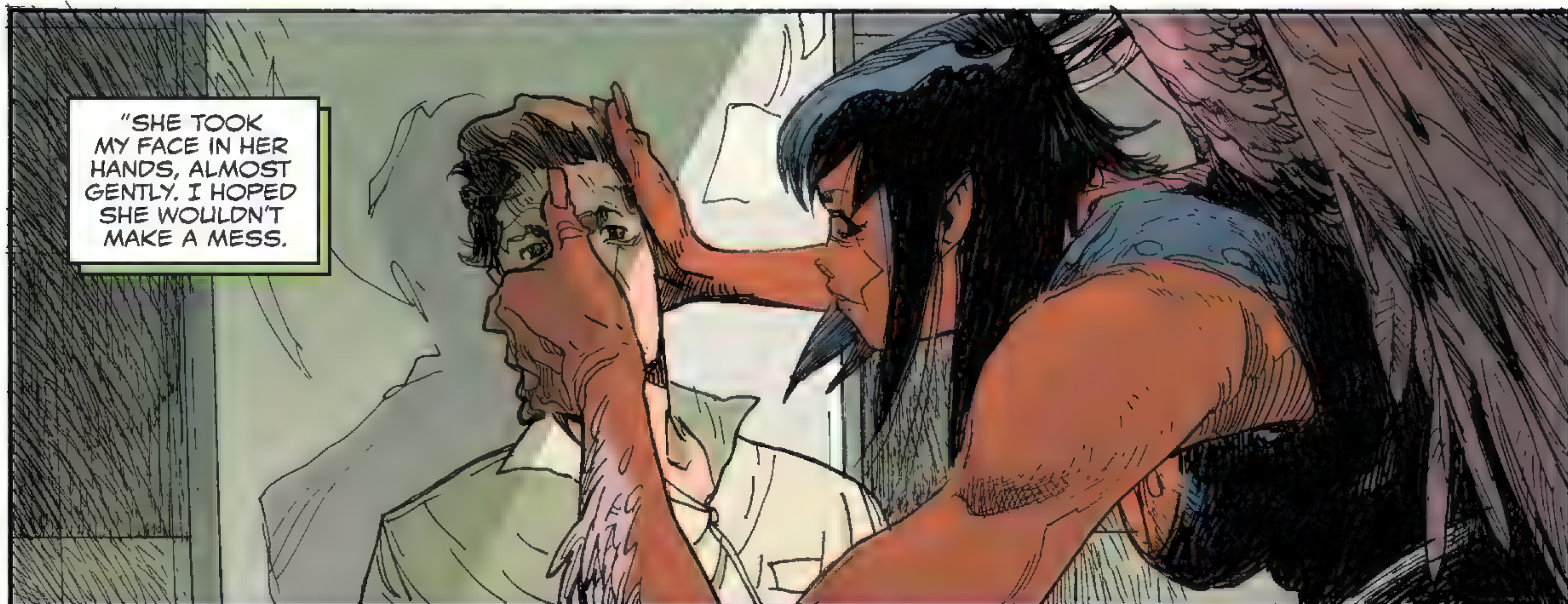
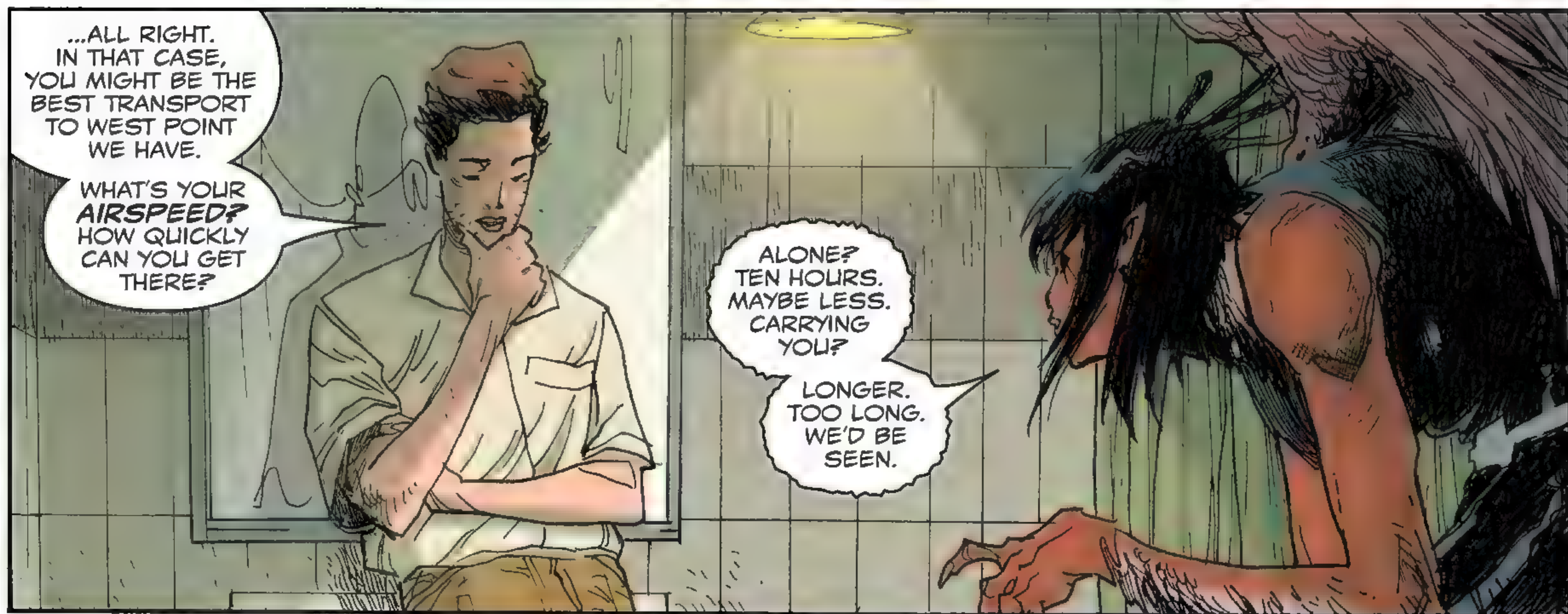
ANYWAY.  
THE THING  
ABOUT GAMMA  
PEOPLE...IS THAT  
WE DON'T ALWAYS  
STAY **DEAD**.  
SOMETIMES  
WE COME  
BACK.

AND IF  
THUNDERBOLT  
ROSS **WASN'T**  
STOLEN...IF HE  
WAS **BACK**...

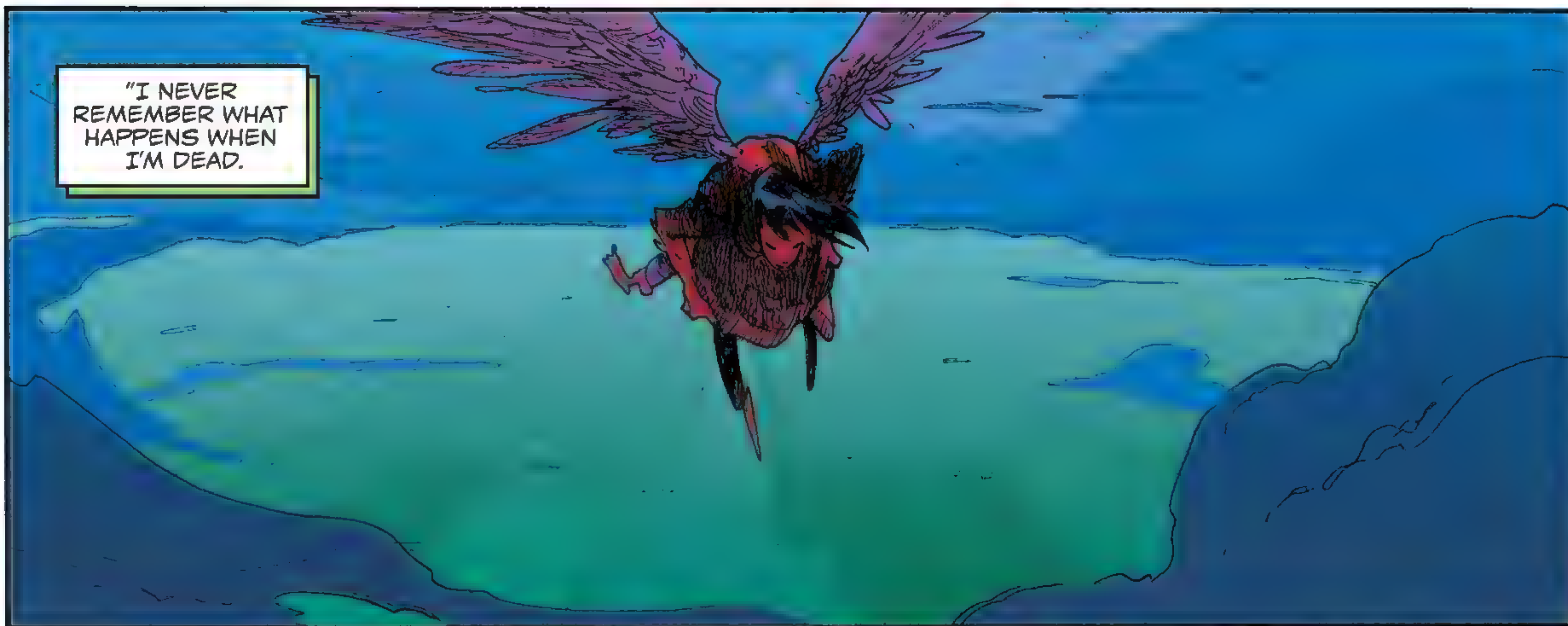




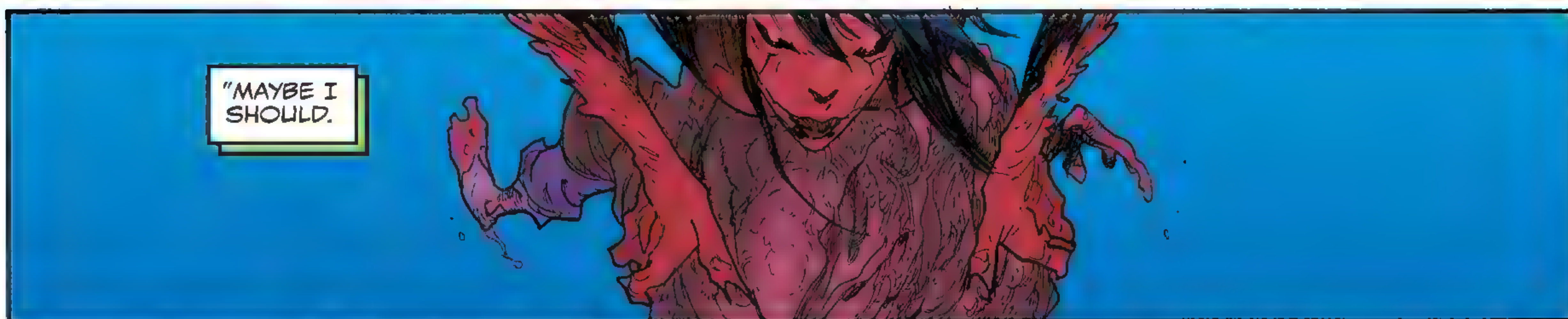




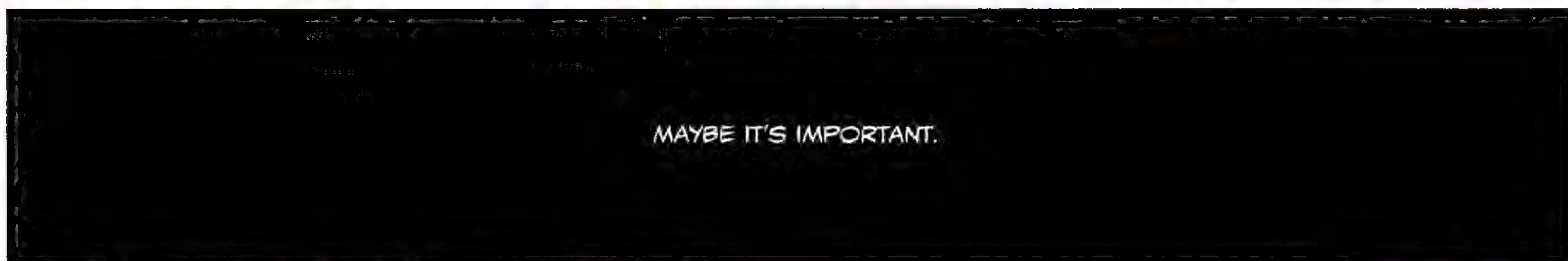




"I NEVER  
REMEMBER WHAT  
HAPPENS WHEN  
I'M DEAD.



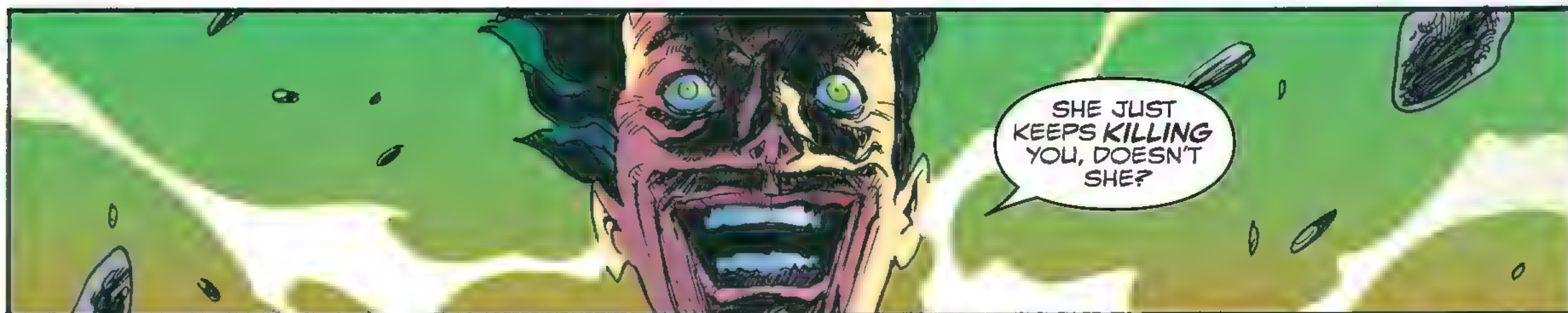
"MAYBE I  
SHOULD.



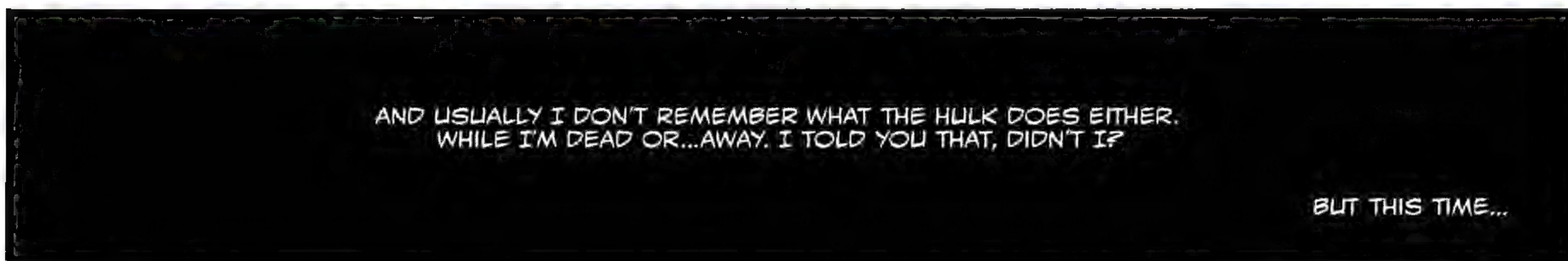
MAYBE IT'S IMPORTANT.



OH,  
BRUCE.



SHE JUST  
KEEPS KILLING  
YOU, DOESN'T  
SHE?



AND USUALLY I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT THE HULK DOES EITHER.  
WHILE I'M DEAD OR...AWAY. I TOLD YOU THAT, DIDN'T I?

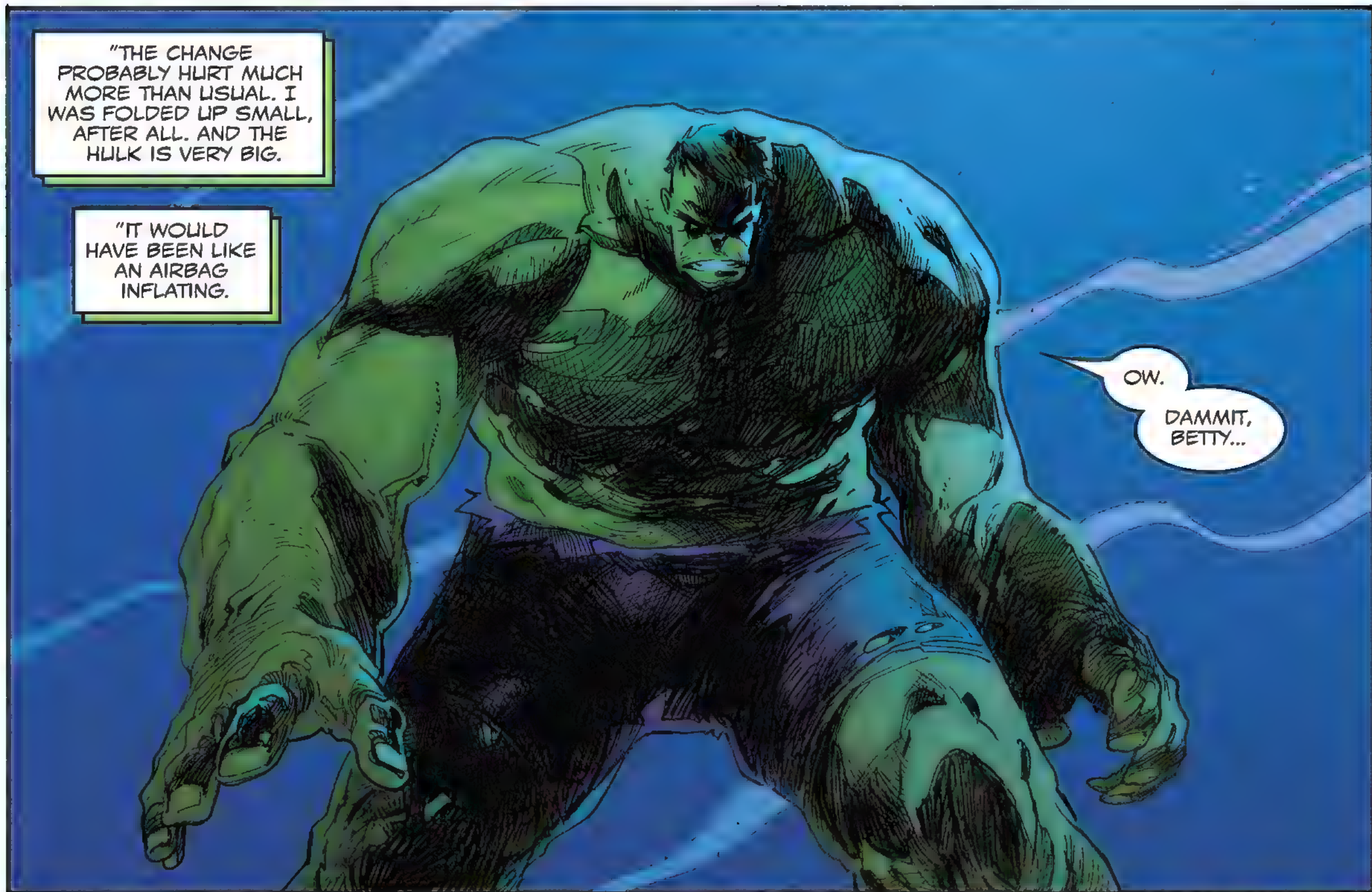
BUT THIS TIME...





"THIS TIME,  
HE LET ME  
REMEMBER.

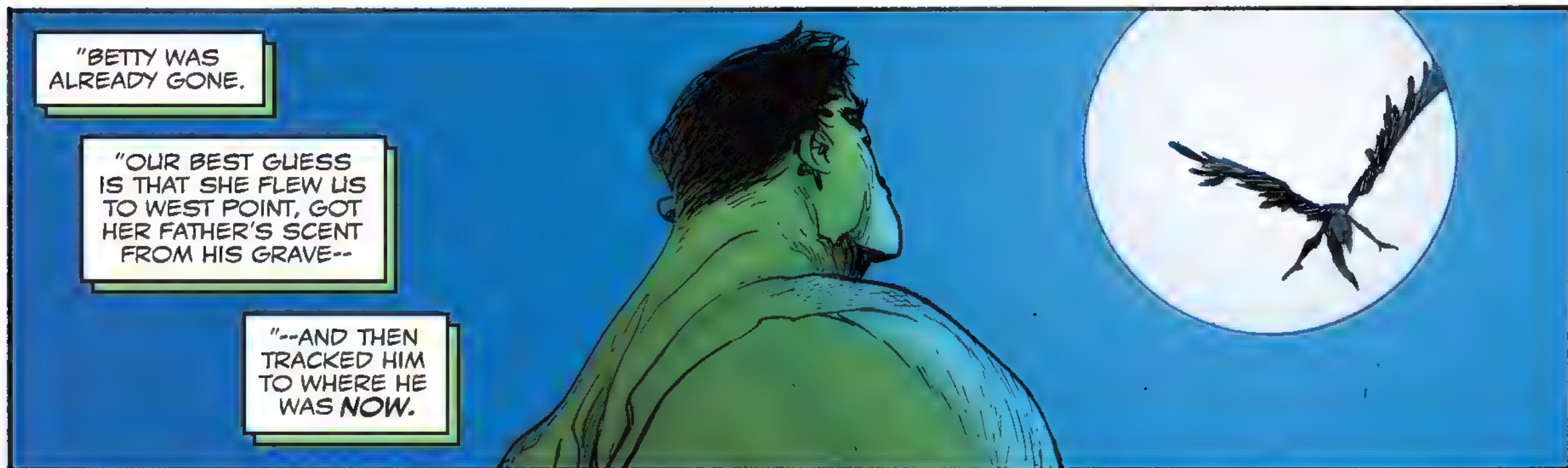
HNNH!



"THE CHANGE  
PROBABLY HURT MUCH  
MORE THAN USUAL. I  
WAS FOLDED UP SMALL,  
AFTER ALL. AND THE  
HULK IS VERY BIG.

"IT WOULD  
HAVE BEEN LIKE  
AN AIRBAG  
INFLATING.

OW.  
DAMMIT,  
BETTY...



"BETTY WAS  
ALREADY GONE.

"OUR BEST GUESS  
IS THAT SHE FLEW US  
TO WEST POINT, GOT  
HER FATHER'S SCENT  
FROM HIS GRAVE--

"--AND THEN  
TRACKED HIM  
TO WHERE HE  
WAS NOW.



ROSS...?

"I DON'T KNOW WHY  
SHE DIDN'T STAY. MAYBE  
SHE WAS SATISFIED WITH  
THE ANSWER. MAYBE SHE  
NEEDED TO BE ALONE.

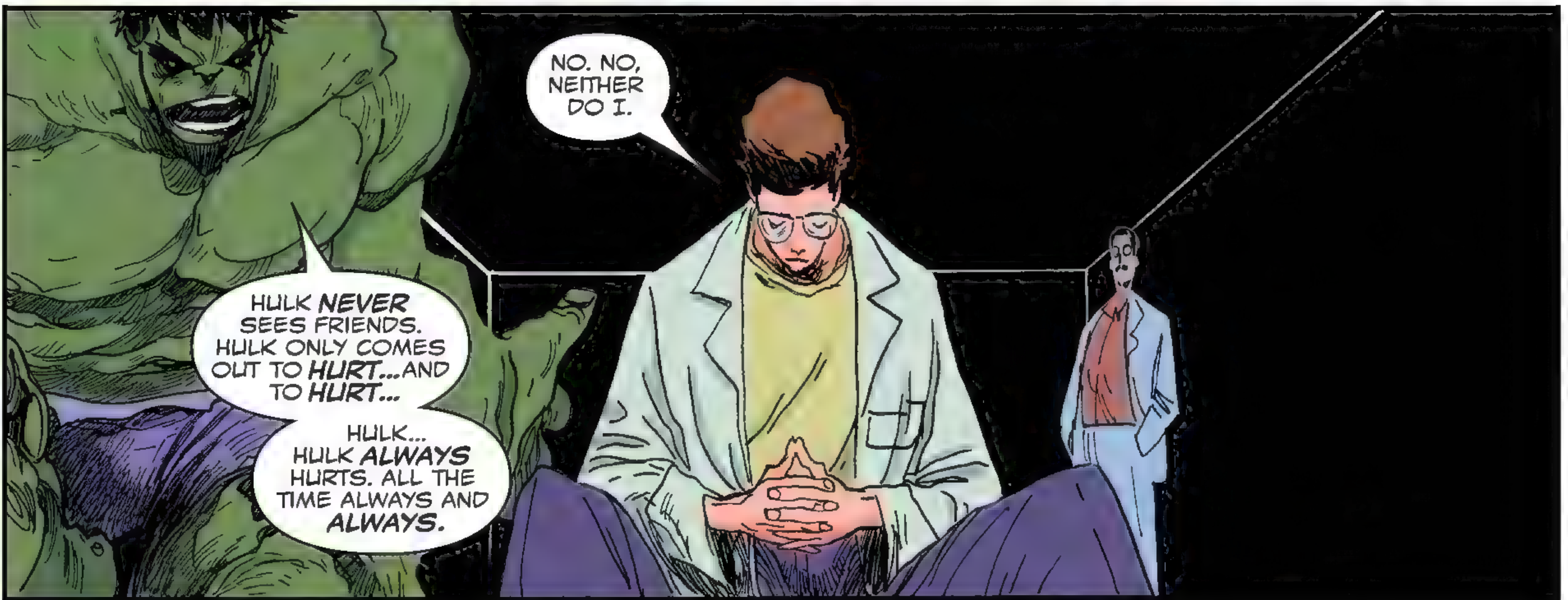
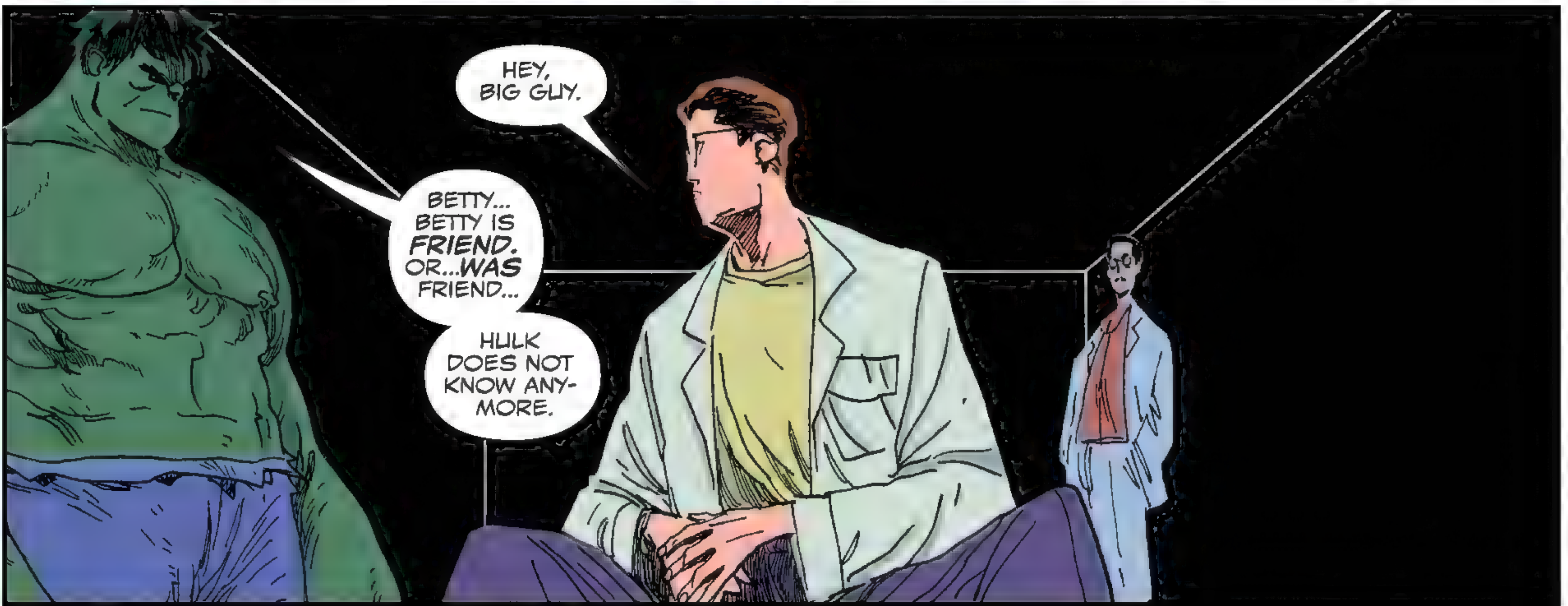
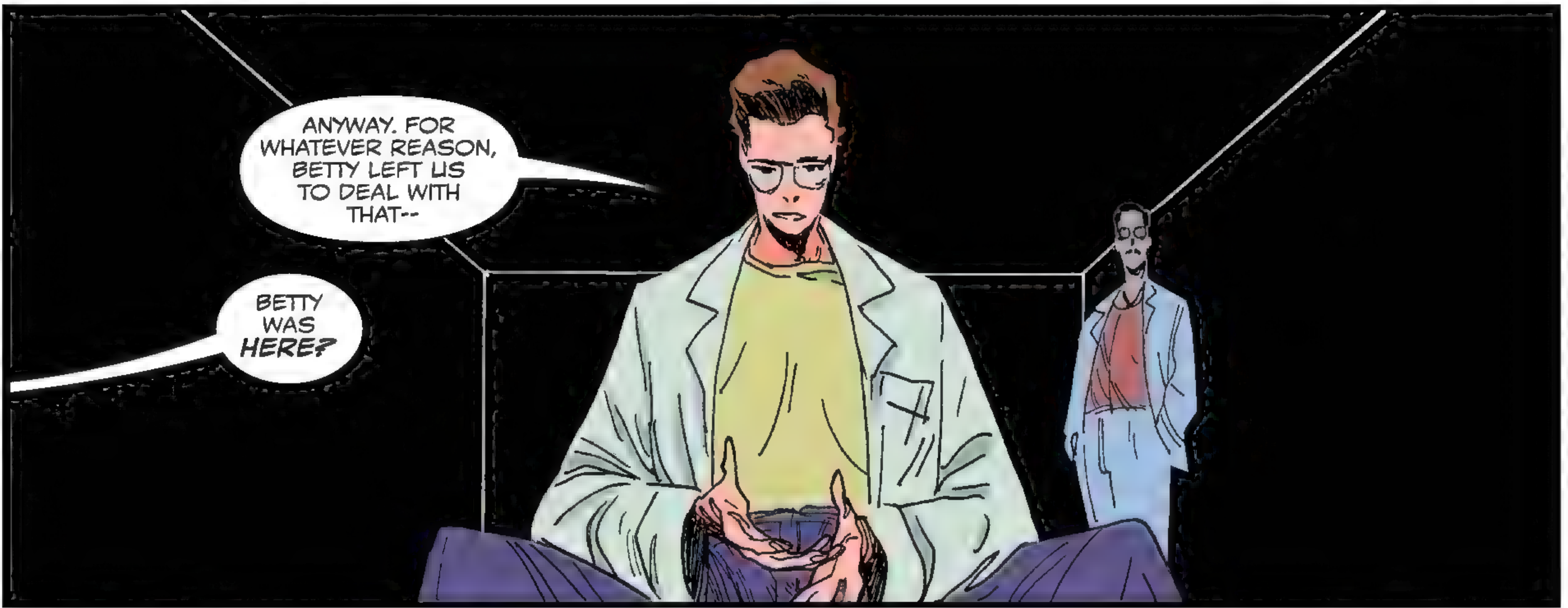
"MAYBE SHE JUST  
DIDN'T CARE ABOUT  
WHAT SHE'D FOUND...



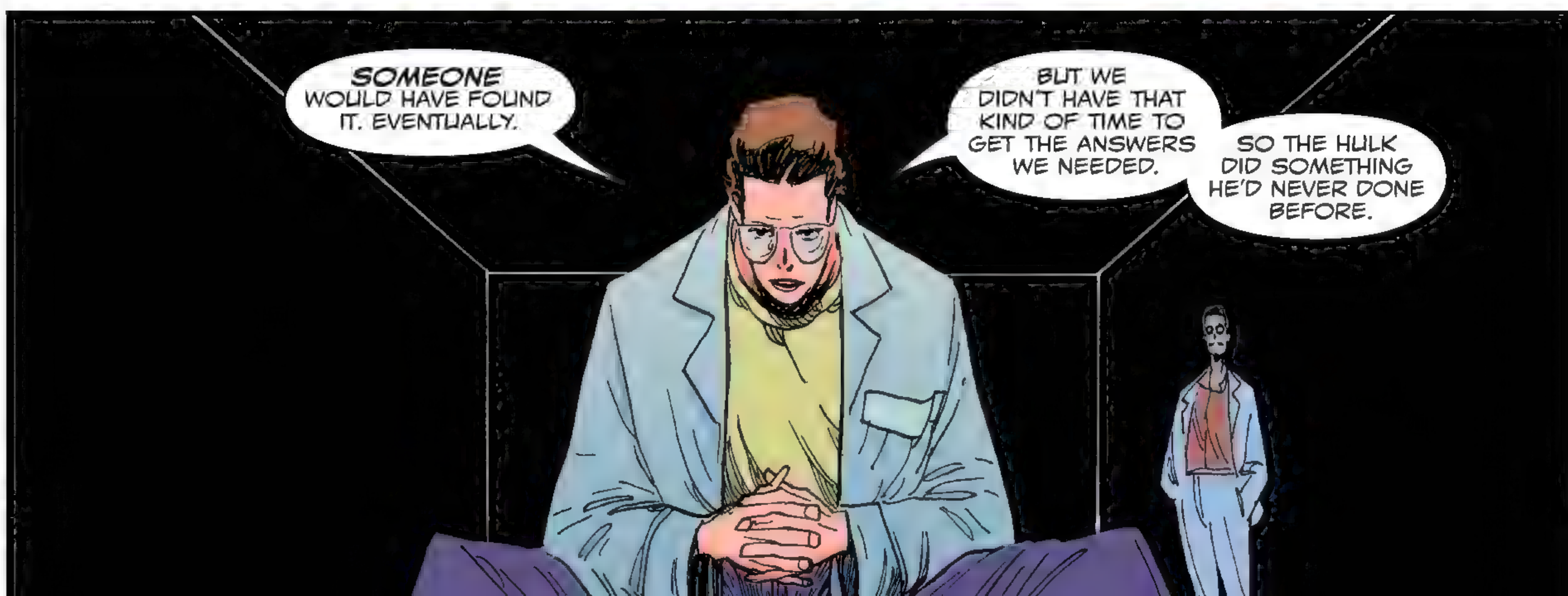
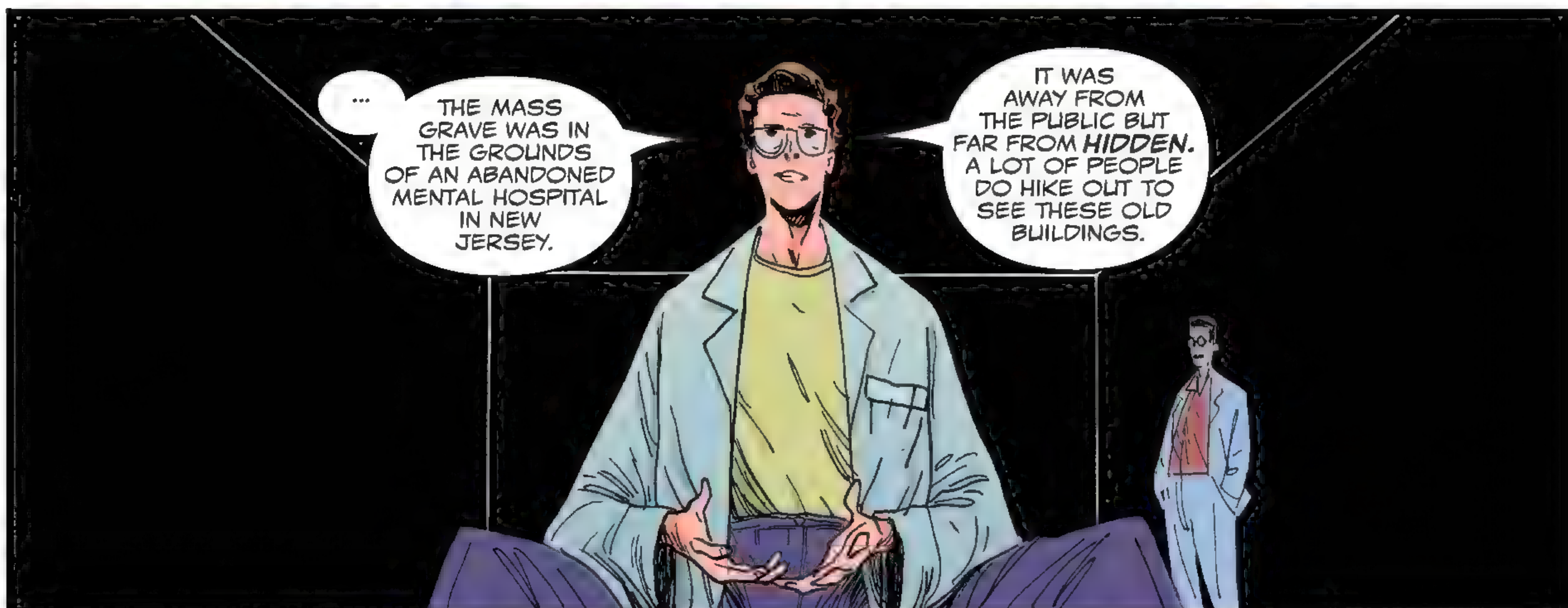


"...BUT I FIND  
THAT HARD TO  
BELIEVE."

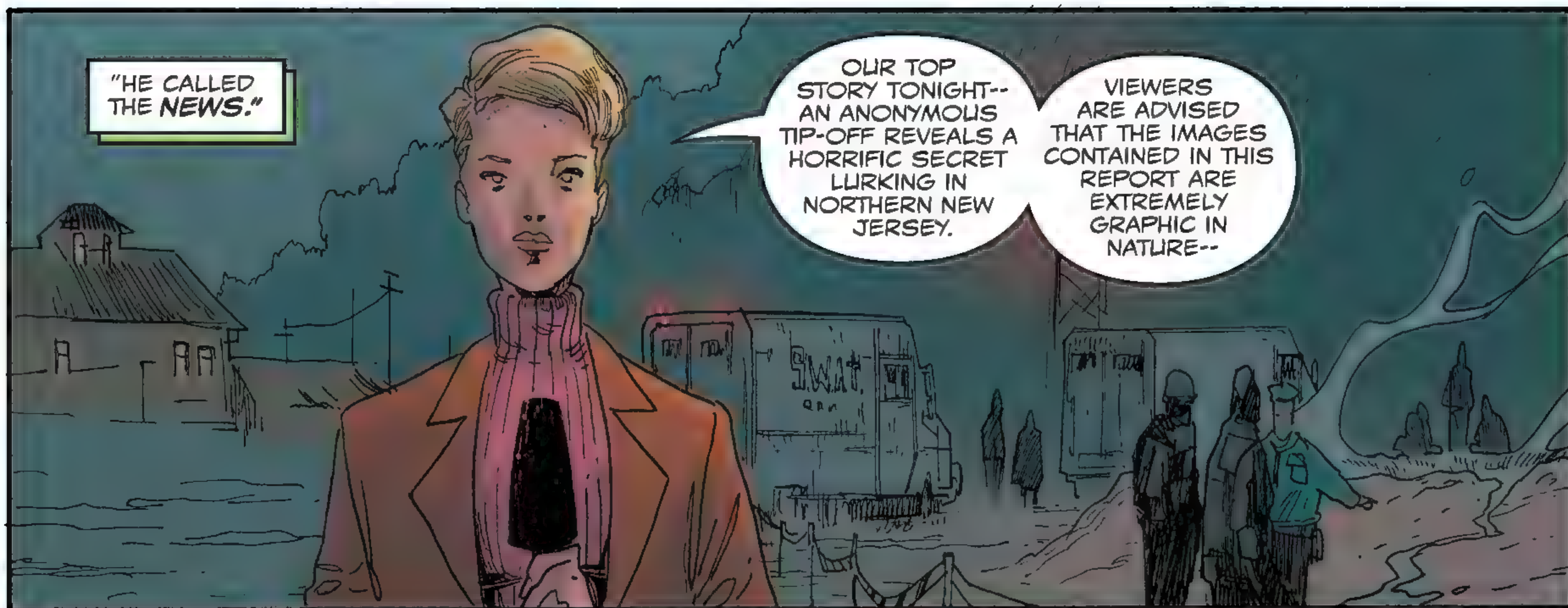












"HE CALLED  
THE **NEWS**."

OUR TOP  
STORY TONIGHT--  
AN ANONYMOUS  
TIP-OFF REVEALS A  
HORRIFIC SECRET  
LURKING IN  
NORTHERN NEW  
JERSEY.

VIEWERS  
ARE ADVISED  
THAT THE IMAGES  
CONTAINED IN THIS  
REPORT ARE  
EXTREMELY  
GRAPHIC IN  
NATURE--



"**EXTREMELY  
GRAPHIC**." YEAH,  
I'LL SAY. CAN  
YOU BELIEVE  
THIS CRAP?

STOLEN  
CORPSES WITH  
THEIR **SPINES**  
TORN OUT?

**CELEBRITY**  
CORPSES  
TOO.



GOOD. **GREAT**.  
I HOPE THEY TAKE  
THIS WHOLE **MESS**  
OFF OUR HANDS.

I MISS WHEN  
WE COULD BUMP  
CRAP LIKE THIS UP  
THE CHAIN TO  
**S.H.I.E.L.D.** OR  
WHOEVER,  
Y'KNOW?

SOME BIG-  
SHOT MILITARY  
GUYS ALREADY TOOK  
**THUNDERBOLT  
ROSS** OFF OUR  
HANDS...



I MEAN,  
WHERE ARE  
WE MEANT TO  
EVEN **START**  
WITH  
THIS?

...DIDN'T YOU  
SAY THERE WAS A  
**MOBSTER'S KID**  
IN THERE?

YEAH,  
I PULLED HIS  
JACKET. GOT IT  
**HERE** IF YOU  
WANNA SEE.

**ANGELO  
FORTUNATO,**  
SON OF DON  
FORTUNATO.





I REMEMBER THE DON. DON'T REMEMBER THE KID--WAS HE EVEN IN THE FAMILY BUSINESS?

ACCORDING TO HIS FILE, IT'S WHAT GOT HIM KILLED.

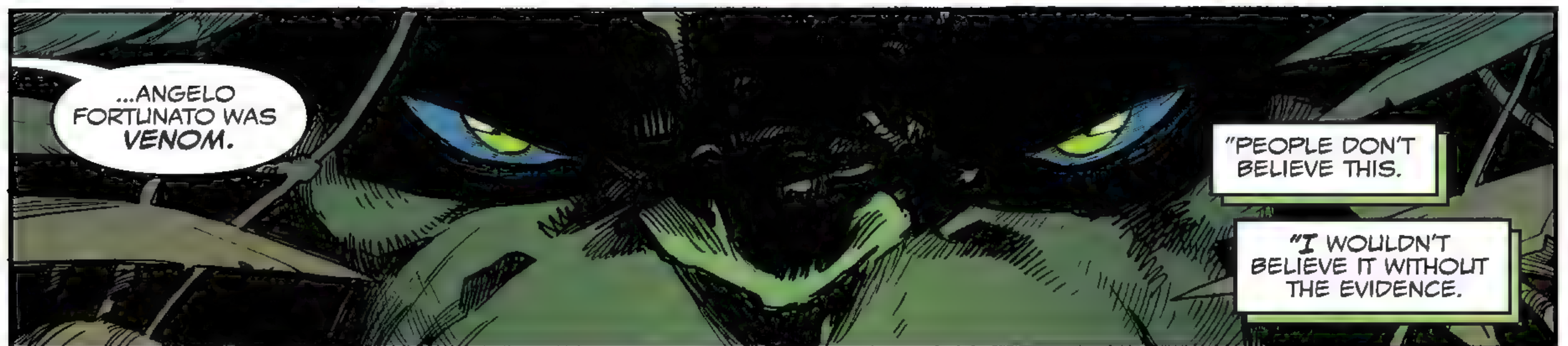
HE WAS TRYIN' TO MAKE IT AS A **SUPER VILLAIN** TO IMPRESS HIS OLD MAN. DIDN'T WORK OUT.



TALE AS OLD AS TIME, SONG AS OLD AS RHYME. DID HE GET A COOL **COSTUME** OUT OF IT, AT LEAST?

OH YEAH. HE GOT A COOL COSTUME, ALL RIGHT.

SAYS HERE FOR ABOUT FIVE MINUTES...



...ANGELO FORTUNATO WAS **VENOM**.

"PEOPLE DON'T BELIEVE THIS.

"I WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT WITHOUT THE EVIDENCE.



"BUT THE HULK IS ACTUALLY VERY **GOOD** AT NOT BEING NOTICED.





"HE'S ALSO  
VERY GOOD  
AT **BEING**  
NOTICED.

OKAY. HEROES,  
HEROES, HEROES.  
HEROES WHO WERE  
**VENOMS**. WHO'S  
ON THE LIST?

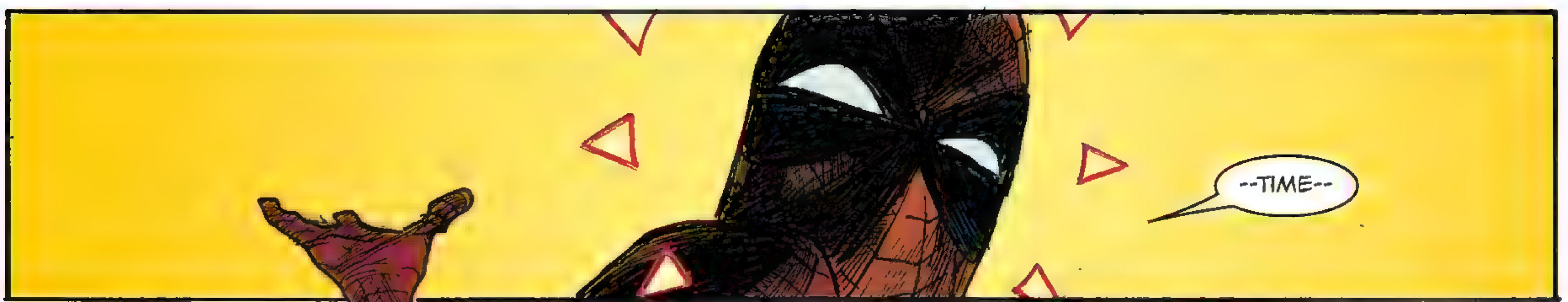
I THINK **CAP?**  
SHOULD BRING HIM IN  
ON GENERAL PRINCIPLE. UM...  
**WOLVERINE...HAWKEYE...**  
MAYBE **BEN GRIMM...**

...CAN OF  
**CHICKPEAS...**  
NO, WAIT, THAT'S  
THE GROCERY  
LIST...

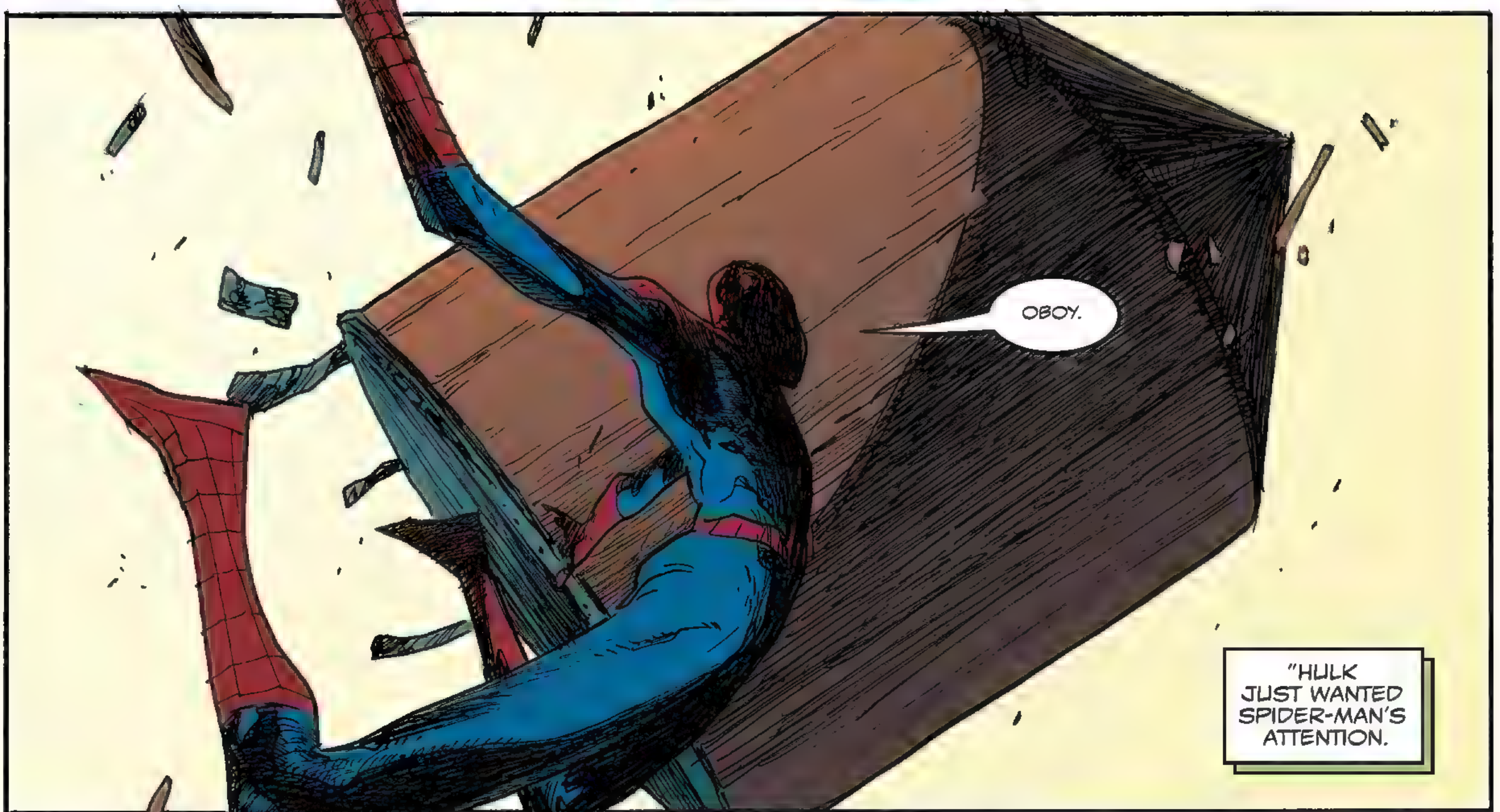


LIGH.  
SUN'S JUST  
ABOUT TO  
COME UP.

I'M  
RUNNING  
OUT OF--



--TIME--



OBOY.

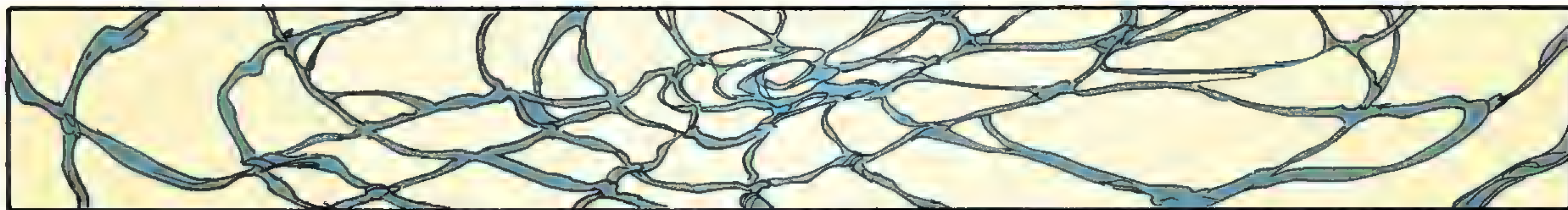
"HULK  
JUST WANTED  
SPIDER-MAN'S  
ATTENTION.



"HE  
KNEW THAT  
WOULDN'T  
HURT HIM..."

"...AND HE  
WOULDN'T  
LET IT HURT  
ANYONE  
ELSE."

THWIP THWIP  
THWIP THWIP



"OR I  
ASSUME  
THAT WAS THE  
THINKING."

OH MY  
GOODNESS--

I KNOW,  
RIGHT?

LISTEN,  
DO ME A  
FAVOR AND CALL  
DAMAGE CONTROL,  
HUH? THIS WEBBING  
MELTS IN AN  
HOUR--

--AND I  
GOTTA GO  
FIGHT CARNAGE  
BEFORE  
HE--

OH.

HELLO,  
SPIDER-  
MAN.

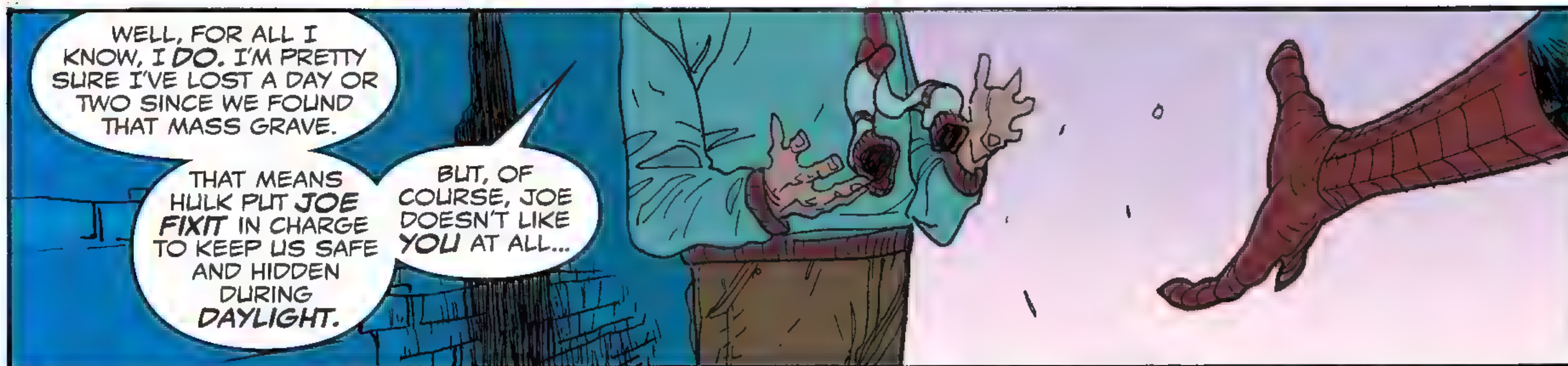
WELL,  
THAT I WAS NOT  
EXPECTING.





I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU HAVE CACHES OF **SPARE CLOTHES** HIDDEN ALL OVER THE CITY.

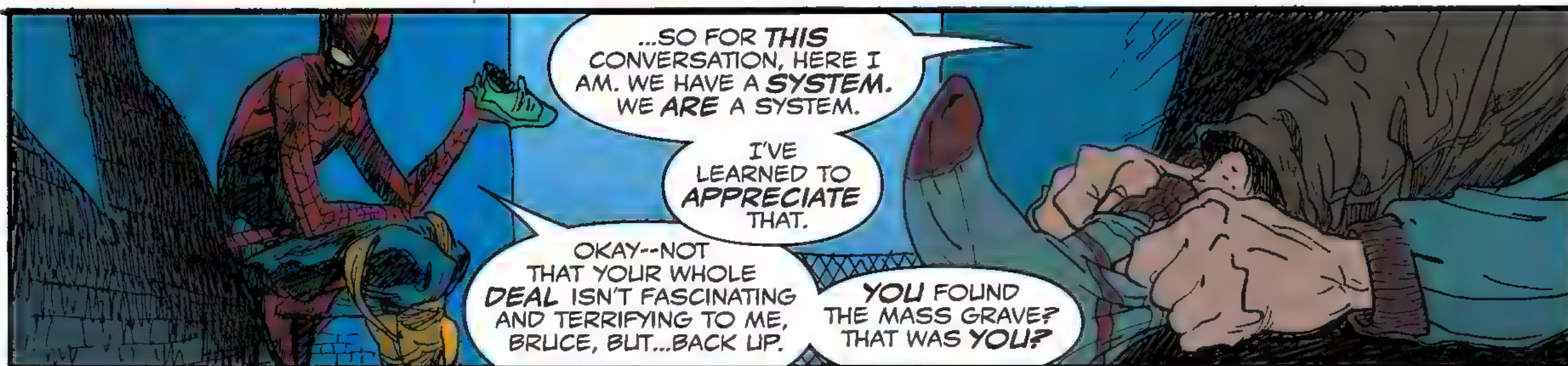
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU **DONT**.



WELL, FOR ALL I KNOW, I **DO**. I'M PRETTY SURE I'VE LOST A DAY OR TWO SINCE WE FOUND THAT MASS GRAVE.

THAT MEANS HULK PUT **JOE FIXIT** IN CHARGE TO KEEP US SAFE AND HIDDEN DURING **DAYLIGHT**.

BUT, OF COURSE, **JOE** DOESN'T LIKE **YOU** AT ALL...

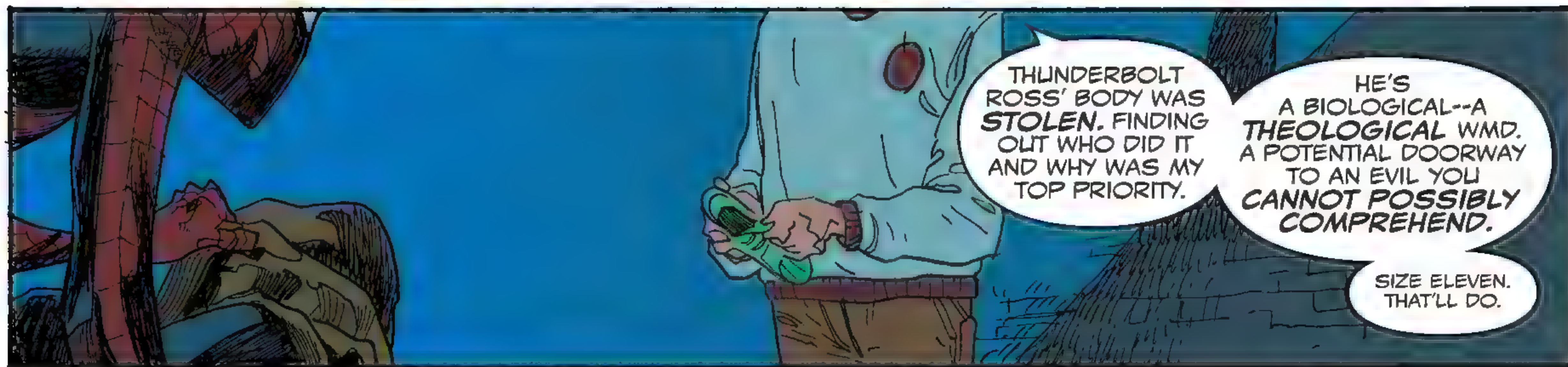


...SO FOR **THIS** CONVERSATION, HERE I AM. WE HAVE A **SYSTEM**. WE ARE A **SYSTEM**.

I'VE LEARNED TO **APPRECIATE** THAT.

OKAY--NOT THAT YOUR WHOLE **DEAL** ISN'T FASCINATING AND TERRIFYING TO ME, **BRUCE**, BUT...**BACK UP**.

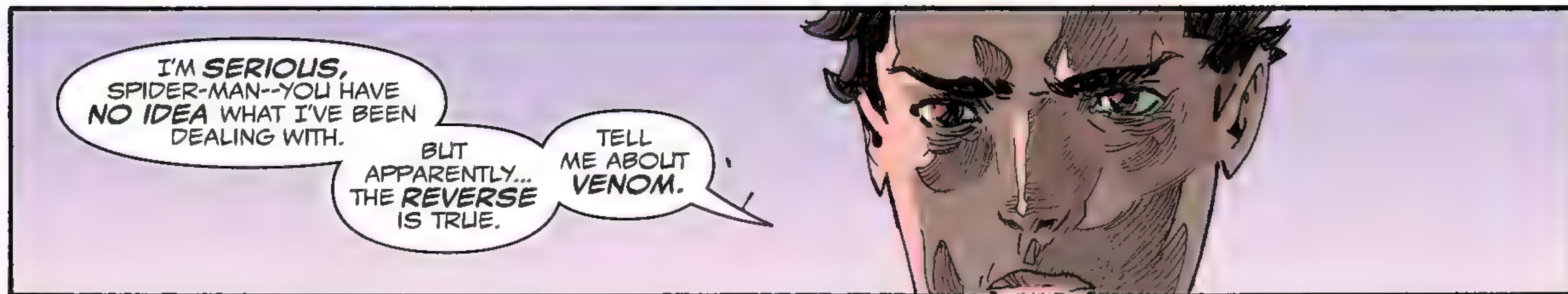
**YOU** FOUND THE MASS GRAVE? THAT WAS **YOU**?



**THUNDERBOLT ROSS'** BODY WAS **STOLEN**. FINDING OUT WHO DID IT AND WHY WAS MY TOP PRIORITY.

HE'S A **BIOLOGICAL--A THEOLOGICAL WMD**. A POTENTIAL DOORWAY TO AN EVIL YOU **CANNOT POSSIBLY COMPREHEND**.

**SIZE ELEVEN**. THAT'LL DO.



I'M **SERIOUS**, SPIDER-MAN--YOU HAVE **NO IDEA** WHAT I'VE BEEN DEALING WITH.

BUT APPARENTLY... THE **REVERSE** IS TRUE.

TELL ME ABOUT **VENOM**.





IT'S NOT  
VENOM THAT'S  
THE PROBLEM. IT'S  
**CARNAGE**. HE'S  
BACK, AND  
HE'S...

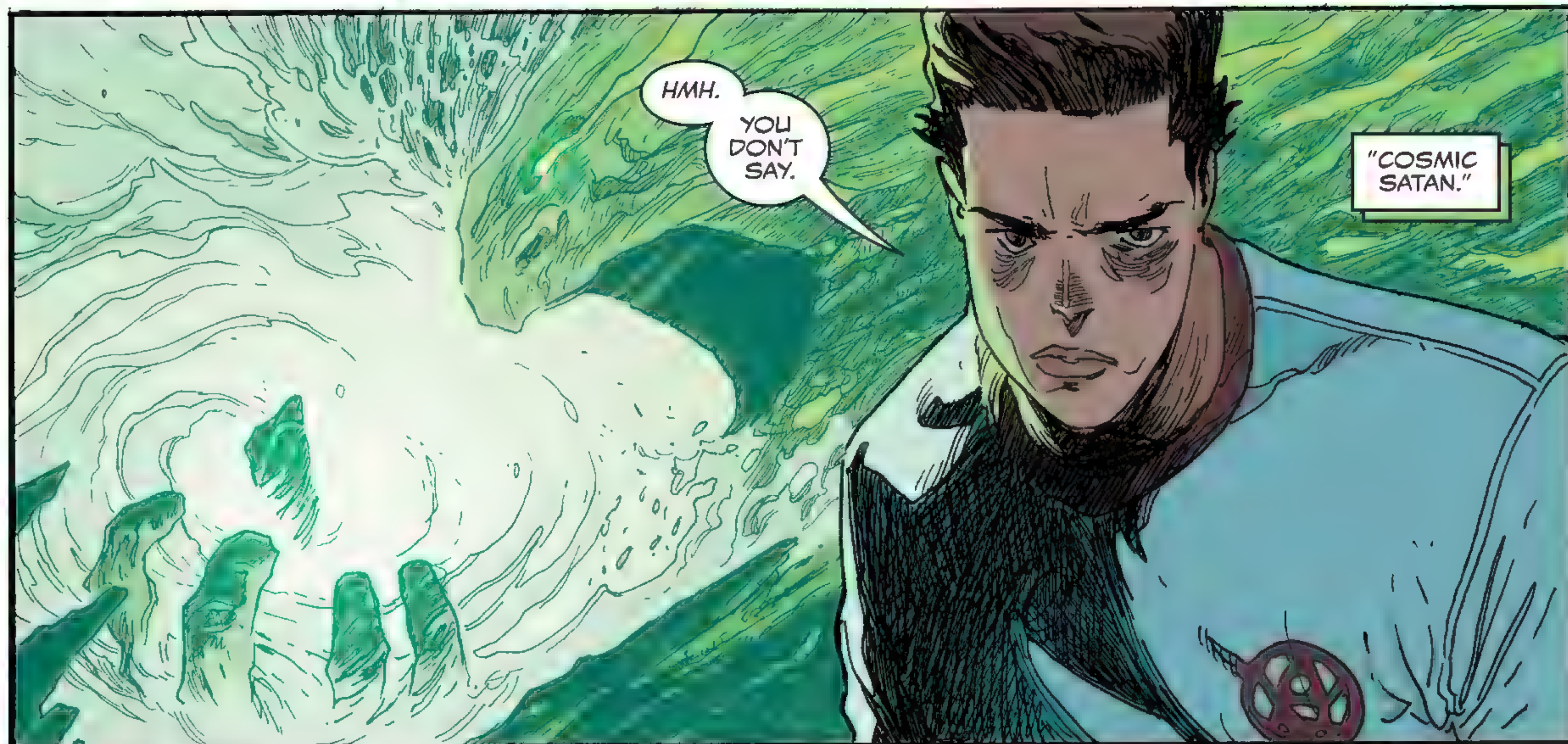
...WELL,  
SYMBIOTES LEAVE  
A KIND OF MARKER  
IN HUMAN SPINES--  
CALLED A **CODEX**.  
ANYONE WHO'S EVER  
WORN A SYMBIOTE  
HAS ONE.

CARNAGE IS  
COLLECTING THEM,  
AND THE MORE HE  
HAS, THE CLOSER HE  
GETS TO...A KIND OF  
**COMMUNION**,  
I GUESS.

HE WANTS  
TO SUMMON  
THE SYMBIOTES'  
ALIEN GOD TO EARTH.  
**KNULL**--GOD OF THE  
**VOID**. AND IF HE  
GETS HERE...

THIS GUY  
IS NOT GOOD  
NEWS, BRUCE. HE'S  
OLDER THAN  
**TIME**. HE'S...

...HE'S  
**COSMIC  
SATAN**.

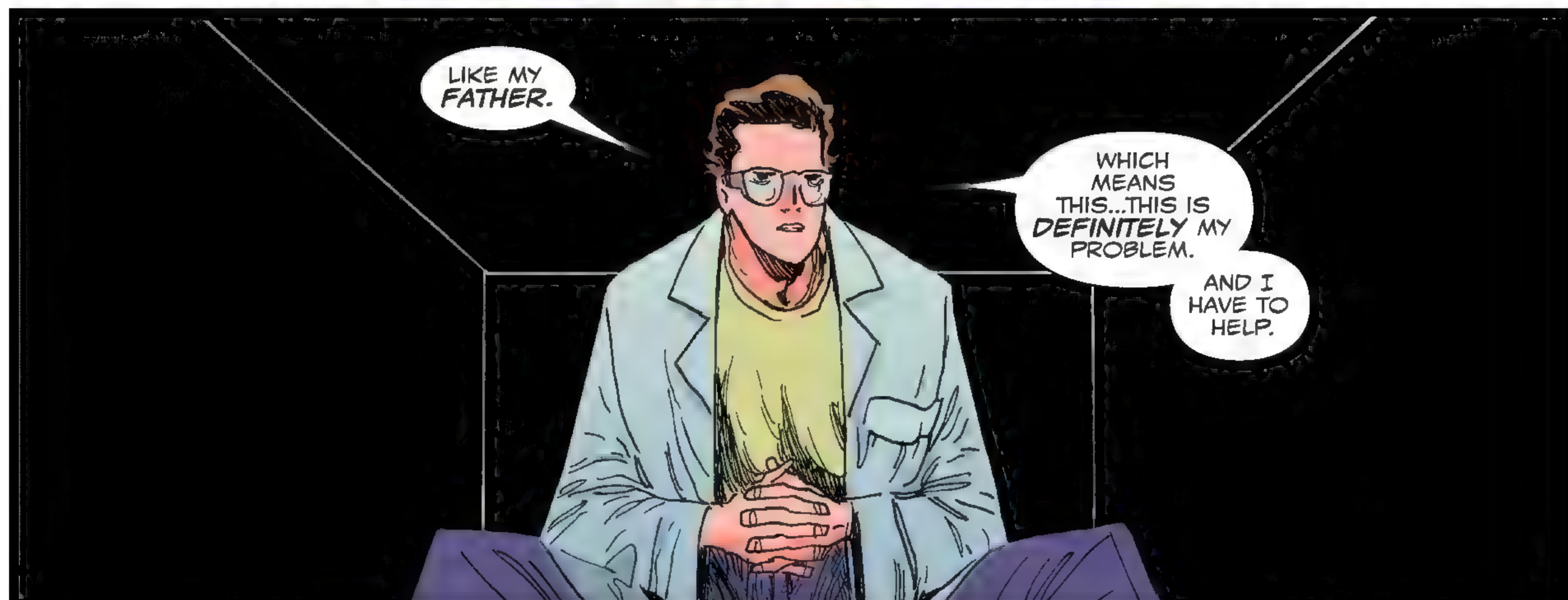
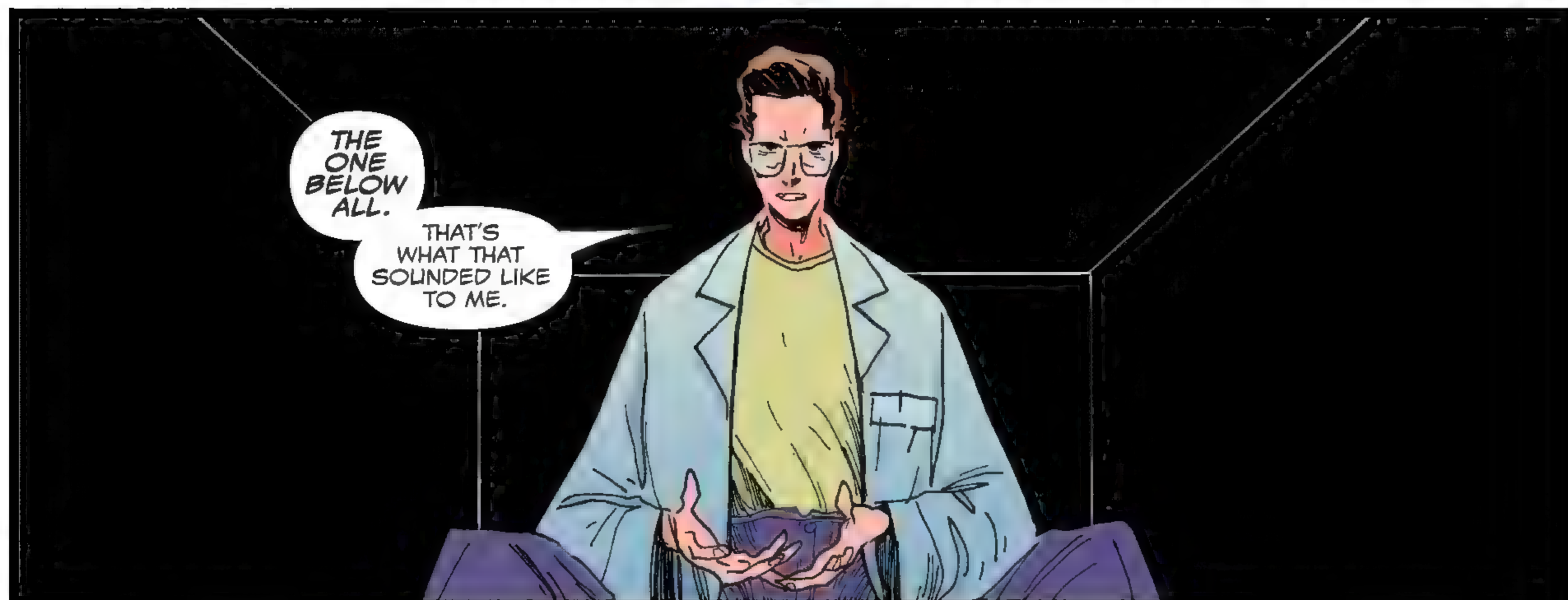


HMH.

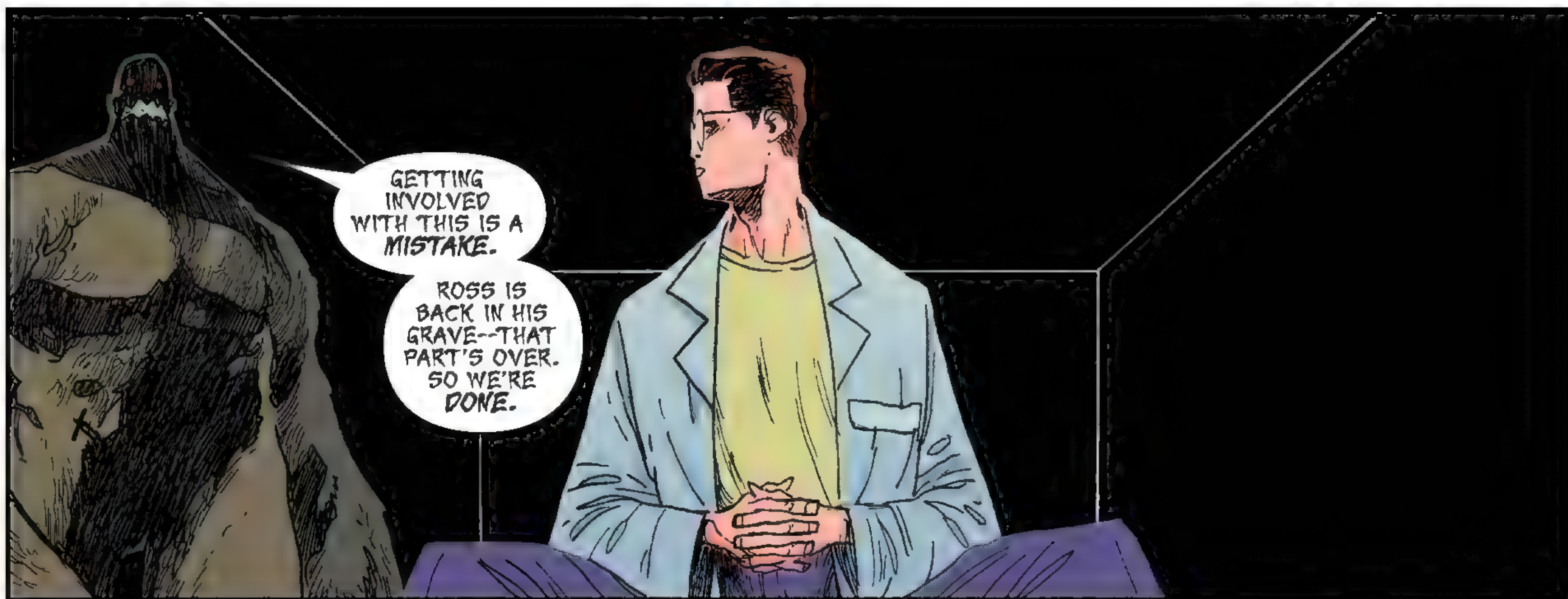
YOU  
DON'T  
SAY.

"COSMIC  
SATAN."









GETTING INVOLVED WITH THIS IS A MISTAKE.

ROSS IS BACK IN HIS GRAVE--THAT PART'S OVER. SO WE'RE DONE.



BETTY AND JONES ARE WAITING IN CALIFORNIA, WHERE WE NEED TO BE. WE GOT WORK TO DO, REMEMBER?

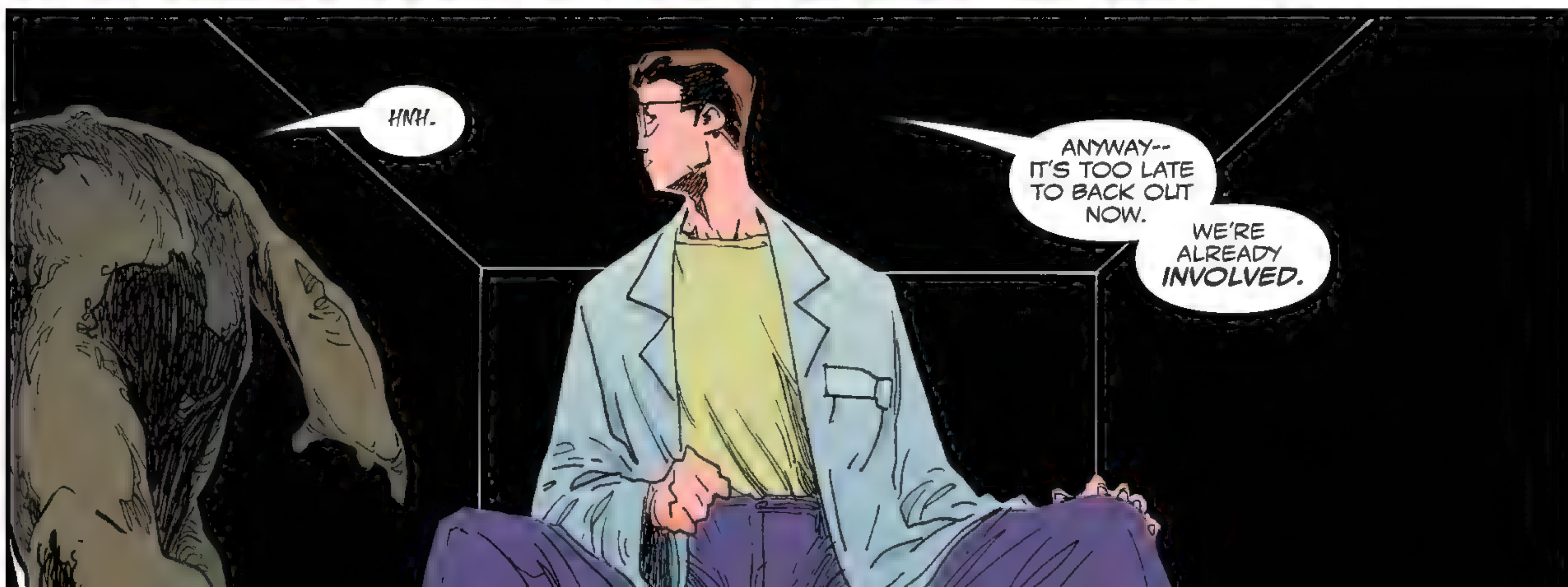
I'M WELL AWARE.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE RUN OFF AND LET SOME SPACE GOD END THE WORLD.



WE'RE ENDING THE WORLD.

OUR WAY.



HNH.

ANYWAY-- IT'S TOO LATE TO BACK OUT NOW.

WE'RE ALREADY INVOLVED.





"HEAVILY INVOLVED."

THE MAGIC CODEX-EXTRACTING DOOHICKEY. LISTEN-- COULD YOU GIVE IT A LOOK OVER?

I DON'T TOTALLY TRUST THIS MAKER GUY...

I'M...NOT AS SMART AS I WAS. BUT I'LL DO WHAT I CAN.

ARE WE EXPECTING ANYONE ELSE HERE...?



"JUST SOME AMAZING FRIENDS."



BRUCE. IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU.

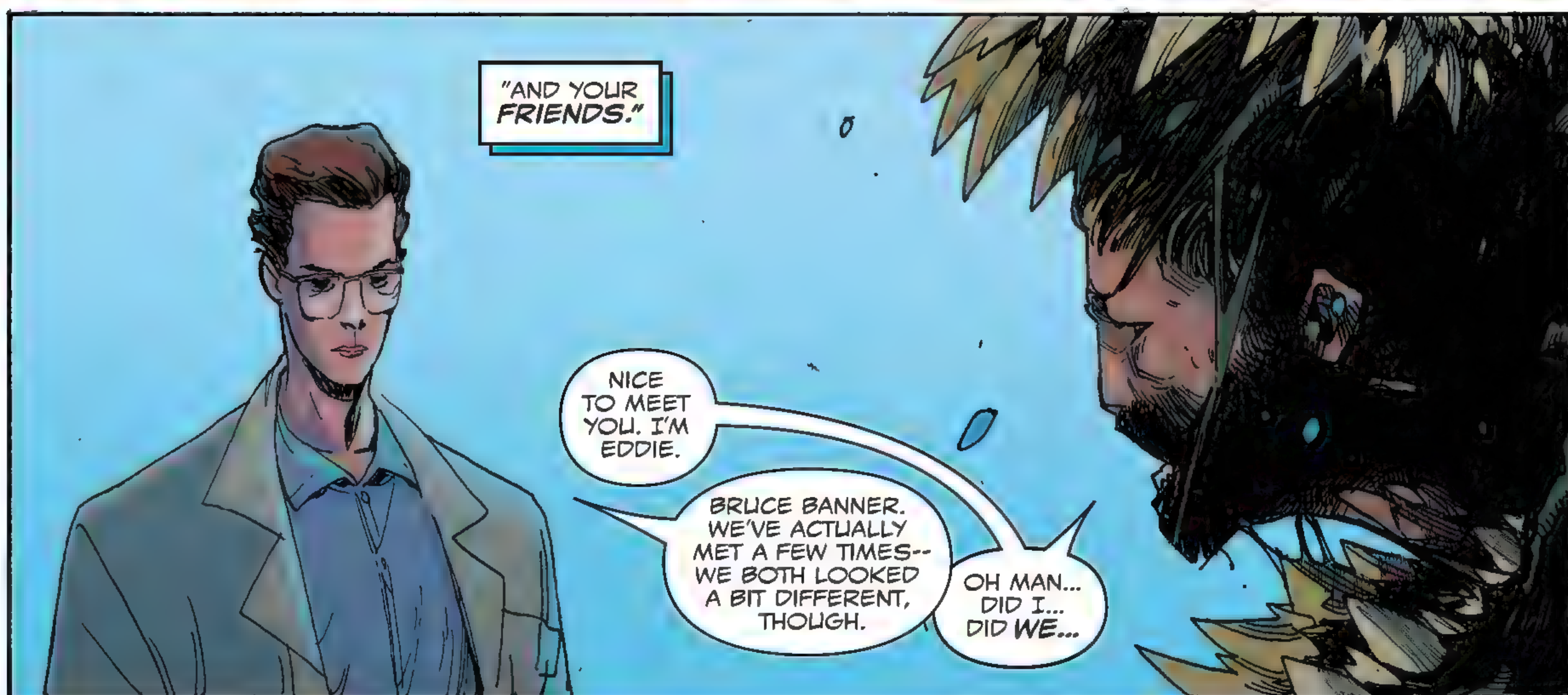
I...WANTED TO APOLOGIZE PERSONALLY FOR WHAT HAPPENED IN IOWA. NOT THE AVENGERS' FINEST HOUR.\*

IT'S FINE, CAP.

THAT SAID... WE'D LIKE YOU TO COME IN. JUST TO TALK TO US.

WE CAN HELP YOU, BRUCE.

\*EDITORS NOTE: SEE IMMORTAL HULK #7, TRUE BELIEVERS!



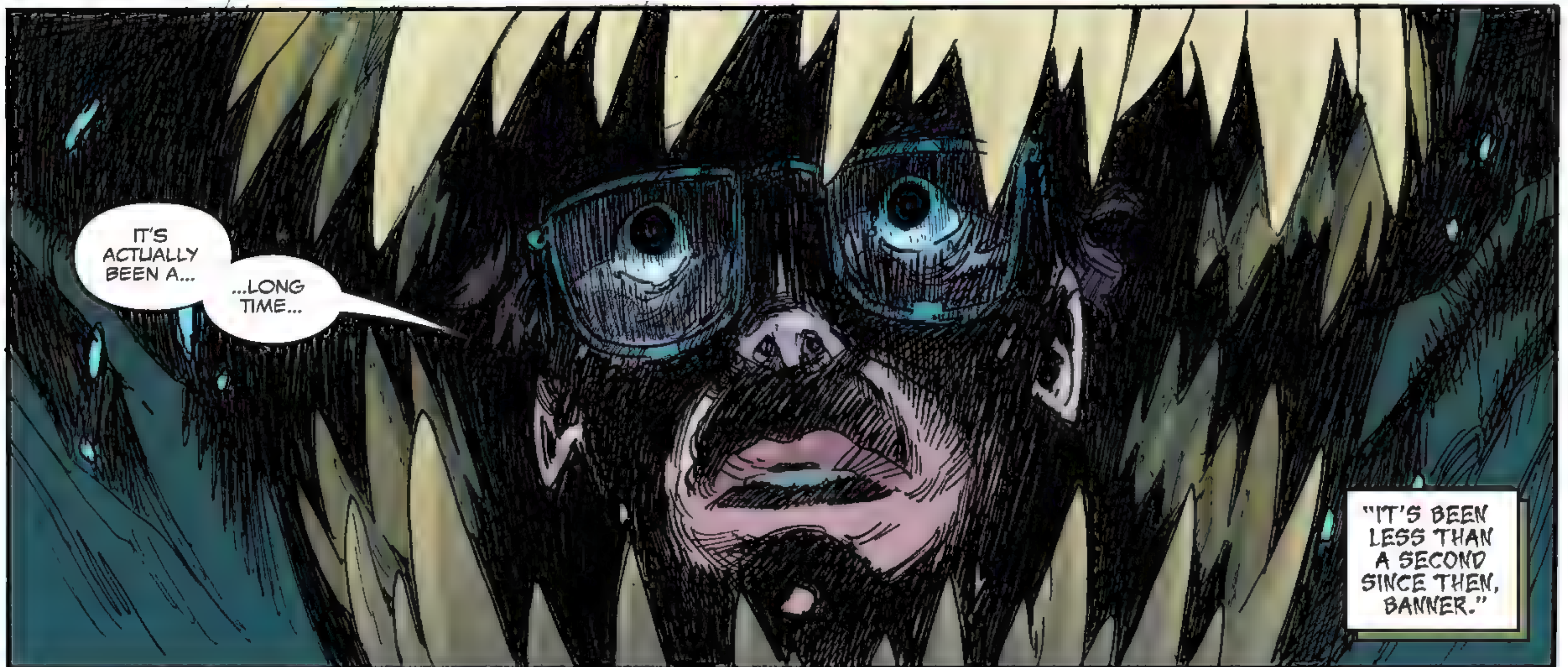
"AND YOUR FRIENDS."

NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M EDDIE.

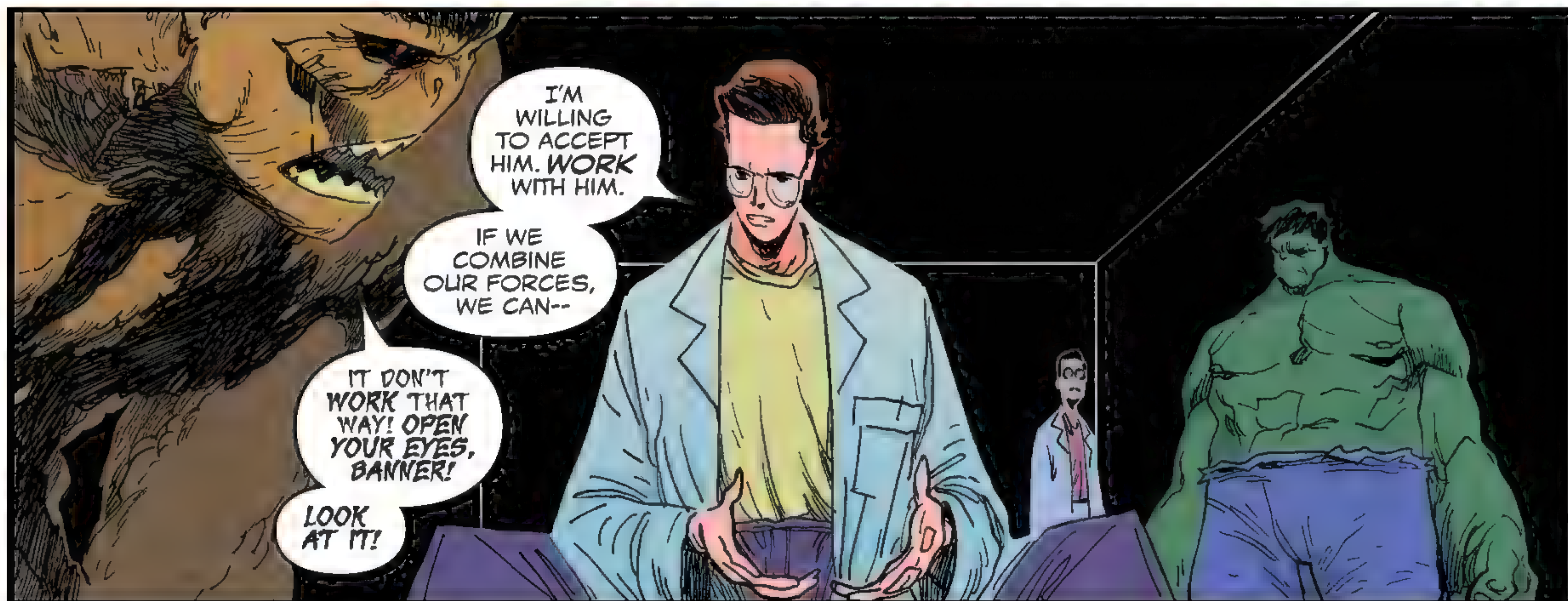
BRUCE BANNER. WE'VE ACTUALLY MET A FEW TIMES-- WE BOTH LOOKED A BIT DIFFERENT, THOUGH.

OH MAN... DID I... DID WE...

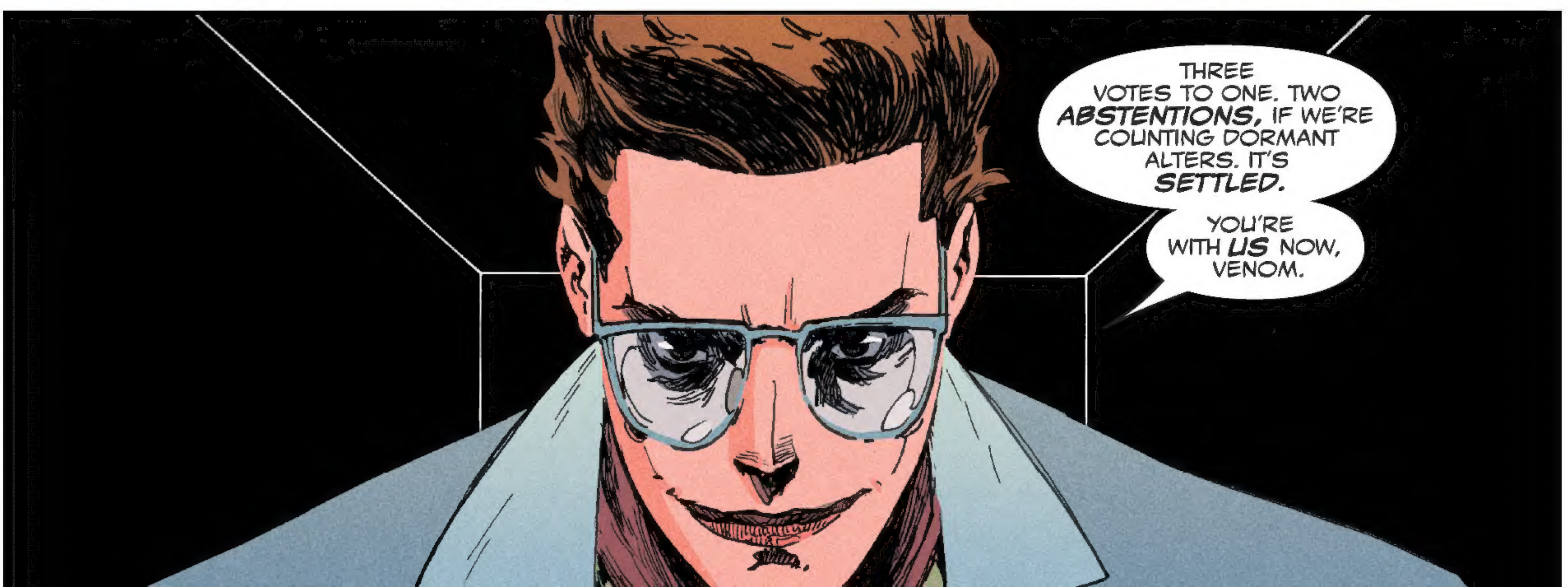
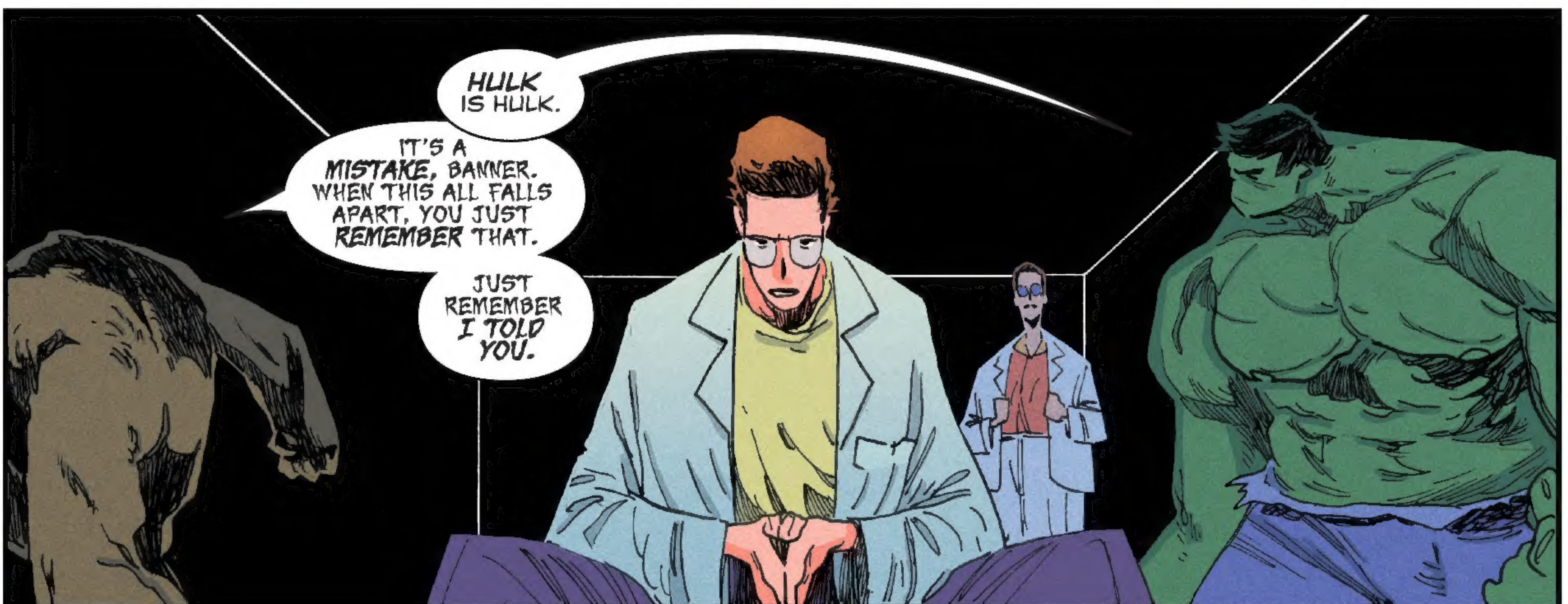
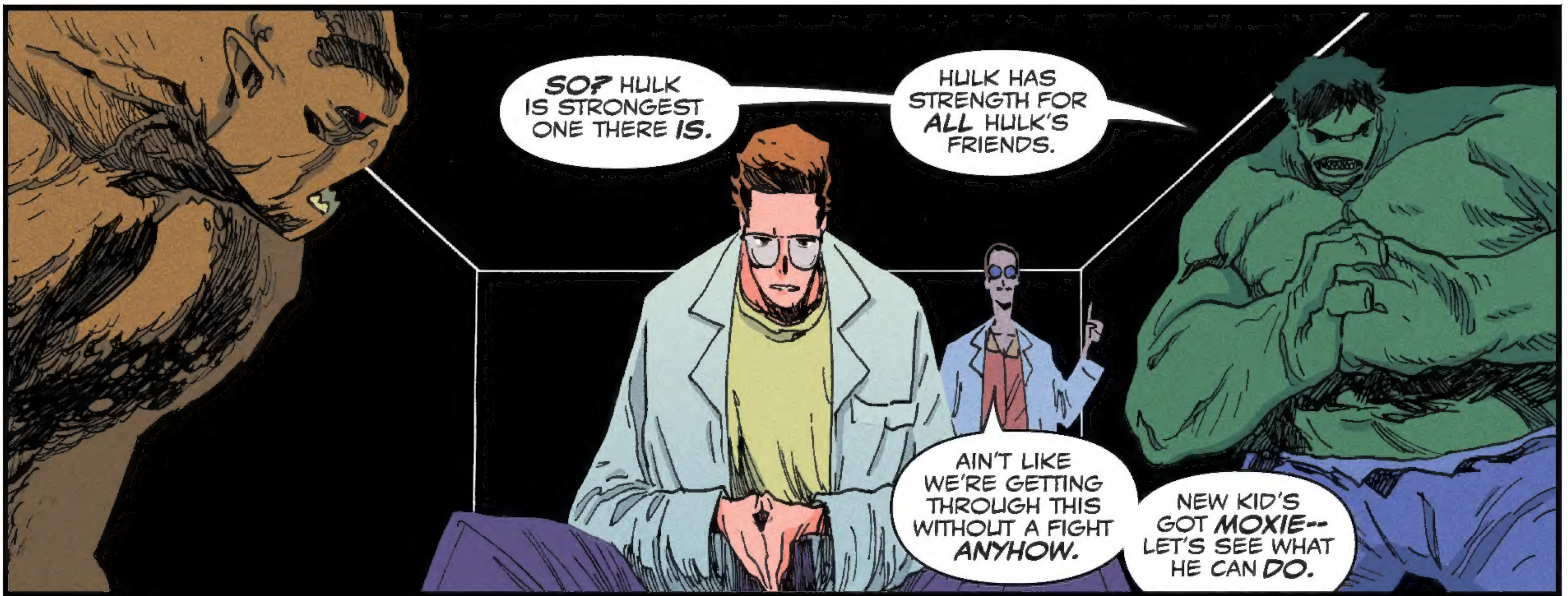














"WELCOME TO  
THE FAMILY."



# WE ARE HULK

AL EWING  
WRITER

FILIPPE ANDRADE  
ARTIST

CHRIS O'HALLORAN  
COLORIST

TRAVIS LANHAM  
LETTERER





# CLETUS' Clubhouse

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## VENOM IS THE STRONGEST ONE THERE IS!!!

Hello, Venomaniacs, and welcome to another thrilling and chilling installment of Cletus' Clubhouse as **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE** continues to engulf the Marvel Universe!

And AT LAST! The explosive debut issue of **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE** is on sale—and you readers out there in Mighty Marvel-dom have let us know how you feel about it with **ENTHUSIASM!** As soon as the first issue dropped, our inbox started filling up, so let's not waste a minute and get right to it!



Dear Venom Team,

I just finished reading **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE** #1 and it was amazing! I saw Cletus' Clubhouse and thought, *Hmmmmmm, I should send a letter in.*

So, hi. Good job. One hundred percent amazing, and I love it so darn much.

Kaedell I.

P.S.: I'm framing mine, cuz it's beautiful.

Thank YOU for reading and for writing in, Kaedell. As dangerous and demented as Carnage may be, we love him too!

VENOM crew,

**ABSOLUTE CARNAGE** is gearing up to be one great creepfest. It feels like danger is right around the corner at any given time. And how creepy was that scene in the subway where he just popped out of nowhere? It just gave me a cold shiver. Am I the only one who can't stop looking at skeletal Carnage? I feel like Cletus lost some weight. I'm also interested in seeing what you're gonna do with Red Goblin. That's gonna be fun. Loving it so far, y'all. Keep it coming. You got this!

(And hey, Drawn to Comics family!)

Billy G.  
Glendale, AZ

Dear VENOM office,

When I began reading comics in the '90s, Carnage played a major role in forming my love for Spider-Man and the Marvel brand as a whole.

As I got older, I drifted away from comics but still remained a fan of the genre. Now in my mid-thirties, I just recently picked up a copy of **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE** as my reintroduction into comic books.

Oh...my...god!

I was in love with the book from page 1. It is gorgeously written and illustrated. **ABSOLUTE-ly** beautiful!

I now feel the need and desire to read anything and everything related to this Venom. Hopefully that will hold me over till the next issue because waiting for it is going to be agonizing.

Awesome job, guys! I can't sing your praises enough.

J. Doyle

Thanks so much for reading, J.! It's one of my personal favorite things to hear from readers who have found their way back to comics!

Like you, I grew up reading Spider-Man comics in the '90s, and it was a real treat to bring some of my favorite characters to the fore as a part of **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE** [insert obligatory plug for **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM** by Cullen Bunn and Gerardo Sandoval here!].

In fact, talking recalling our favorite past symbiotic supporting characters and devising ways to fold them into the story of **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE** has been one of the most exciting parts of building the story for everyone involved. Hoping we brought back some of your favorites too!



Here's a letter from Venomaniac Travis, who knows his Venom history maybe even better than I do!

Dear **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE** Crew,

I gave my comic shop the checklist to get all parts of **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE**. They missed the original release of **WEB OF VENOM: FUNERAL PYRE**, but I got it the same time **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SEPARATION ANXIETY** and **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM** were released.

After a long workweek, I sat down and read all three book back-to-back. What...a...RIDE!

First, **FUNERAL PYRE** was hot, hot, hot. It was great to see what Andi was up to. Is everyone in her family super nice? Her dad, her aunt... Don't get me wrong; I loved it. Very different from the standard broken home most tortured heroes have. The return of the monsters from the D.O.A. was also great, even if it was short-lived. Can they return? They are demons, after all. Andi's battle look with the armor, goat legs and wrench (because her dad and her used a wrench fighting Jack O'Lantern during Bunn's run in **VENOM** issue #38 and #39) is battle-utiful. I love all the deep cuts your team is doing.

Second, **SEPARATION ANXIETY** is a perfect horror comic book. The return of the symbi-puppy from the end of **DEADPOOL VS. CARNAGE** and its attempt at family life was scary and sad at the same time. Plus, thanking Knull during saying grace at dinner was perfect. Any chance Sadie and her family can survive this National Lampoon's Grisly Family Trip?

Finally, **SCREAM** was my FAVORITE of the three. The return of Patricia Robertson was... I don't have the words to describe how great that was. Her battle with a corpse carrying Scream, then becoming the host, then Andi showing up. Also Patricia's jealousy toward Andi for having bonded with the clone symbiote she had back in Way's run. Again with the deep cuts, nice. Not to mention the art of Gerardo Sandoval with Cullen Bunn's writing—as great a team-up as the Ryan Stegman and Donny Cates duo. Now the classic question section:

Okay, Travis—lay 'em on me! Ready...? GO!

Where's the Jury? If they do show up, would Carnage's experience with Michael Hall's armored team be a problem?

For now, the Jury's been disbanded, with little known about the current whereabouts or exploits of most of their membership.

Though, as we saw in the first arc of Donny and Ryan's run, Rex's warehouse was chock-full of at least SOME of the ordnance and tech the Jury used in their war against Venom and its offspring.



I wonder if Eddie'll be able to put any of that to use, considering the events of this epic issue...

Is there a planned reference or appearance of Chthon?

**THERE IS! Great continuity know-how, Travis. In WEB OF VENOM: FUNERAL PYRE, when Carnage says, "You ain't the only one who's cursed" to Andi, that's a direct reference to the Gerry Conway-penned and Mike Perkins-illustrated CARNAGE series, which culminated with Carnage using the *Darkhold* to imbue himself with dark magic and a resistance to fire and sonics unique among the symbiotes.**

Are there codices in the people and heroes who were infected with the Venom virus in the NEW AVENGERS and MIGHTY AVENGERS runs?

**No! The Venom Bomb, as we've been calling it at VENOM HQ, was a semisynthetic weapon biochemically engineered by Doctor Doom. WHATEVER symbiote material he used to craft his device, it was so augmented and altered by experimentation that the very core of its genetics were changed, bearing no resemblance to those of Venom.**

Any Poisoned symbiotes showing up that survived the VENOMIZED event?

**I mean, TECHNICALLY Carnage himself was Poisoned! So, yes!**

**Beyond that, I can't say too much—you'll just have to keep reading!**

Dear ABSOLUTE CARNAGE crew,

First off, I'd just like to say how great this entire thing has been.

One issue into the main series and you've already cemented this as my new favorite Venom story! As a kid, the first cartoon I ever watched was Spider-Man: The Animated Series, the Venom Saga, and ever since, I have loved everything Carnage. I've made it my goal to collect every comic featuring the 616 Cletus and his symbiote.

Needless to say, I know Carnage pretty well. I've never really been scared of him. That is, until now. After I read CARNAGE BORN, VENOM UNLEASHED and CULT OF CARNAGE, I had the first nightmare I've had in two years. I just dreamt about being hunted by Carnage and having my spine ripped out.

Keep up the amazing work, guys!

**Hey, [unsigned]! Man, I LOVED that arc of the Spider-Man animated series when I was a kid. That show, the PlayStation Spider-Man game and, of course, the comics of the time still form the bedrock of how I understand Spider-Man, Venom and the whole Marvel Universe.**

**BUT! Included among those oh-so-formative comics was ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN, and if you haven't read the Carnage saga from ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN by Brian Michael Bendis and Mark Bagley, I would URGE you to go find it! Heck, go find and read ALL of ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN!**

**Not only does it contain one of the best and creepiest Carnage stories ever told, it's one of the best Spider-Man stories ever!**

**Plus, you never know where those characters'll pop up next...**

Dear ABSOLUTE CARNAGE Team,

As a big symbiote fan, I have been really looking forward to ABSOLUTE CARNAGE, and I'm happy to see some of my favorite symbiotes returning, like Scream. It's also great seeing Carnage being treated as a big threat, even if some of it is thanks to Knull.

One Question:

Spider-Gwen currently has a symbiote, but she doesn't appear to be targeted. Is it because she and her symbiote are from a different Earth?

Keep up the great work; the first issue was amazing!

Luis

**Thanks so much for your letter, Luis, and before answering your question about Gwen, I just want to note one thing:**

**Carnage isn't being treated like a big threat because of Knull's presence in the story or the MU.**

**He's being treated like a big threat because he's CARNAGE!**

**The most bloodthirsty and reprehensible serial killer in the history of the MU—and that was BEFORE he got his symbiote!**

**He's communing with Knull, yes, and Knull is a force Eddie, Venom and the Marvel Universe will have to reckon with eventually (if they survive ABSOLUTE CARNAGE, that is), but make no mistake: This summer, CARNAGE rules.**

**As for Gwen, Ghost-Spider is already such an integral part of the Spider-Family that we discussed the possibility of bringing her into the story—especially since, as you say, she's wearing what appears to be her universe's version of a symbiote.**

**But like Doom's Venom Bomb, Gwen's suit is synthetic and therefore interacts with her physiology differently than a Klyntar. While we're not exactly sure what that means yet (you should check out GHOST-SPIDER if you want some clues!), we figured it ruled her out of being one of Carnage's targets.**

For now.

Hey, True Believers,

I just got done reading ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 and a few of the tie-ins. And let me say, HOLY CRAP.

Over the past few months, I've been in quite a depression and have turned to comic books to pull me out of this rut. My first comic was Cates, beginning with VENOM, which bled into ABSOLUTE CARNAGE.

Everything is perfect.

I can hardly make it home before I'm ready to crack open the book to discover the mystery that is about to unfold before my eyes. ABSOLUTE CARNAGE is the symbiote story I never knew I needed. Out of the hundreds of symbiote stories in the Marvel-verse, for a new fresh Carnage story to unfold in such mystery, excitement and NEWNESS (is that a word?) is mind-blowing. I can't wait to see where this road ends but don't want it to ever end... Thank you, everyone, for creating such a fresh story in the world of the craziest psychopath serial killer Carnage.

Y'all are awesome,  
Kyle S.

**No, Kyle—Y'ALL are awesome! Thanks for reading and for the kind words.**

Dear ABSOLUTE CARNAGE team,

I've been collecting comics for about five years now, ever since my dad passed down his old collection to me.

I read the VENOM series last year and it was awesome, and I can't wait to see how this new storyline's going to end. Can't wait for issue #2!

Alex

**Thanks for reading, Alex! It's always great to hear from readers who share their comics hobby with their family. Here's to many more years of Venom comics you and your dad can share!**



**That's all the space we've got for this one, folks! Remember to head to your comic shop next week—and EVERY week this summer—and tell them you want the best, and the best is CARNAGE!**

#CarnageRules  
Devin  
@edevinlewis